

MEDICAL PRODUCTS

Advantages of Hot Stamping – Pharmaceutical Bags

Compared to wet printing process like silk-screen, offset or flexography to imprinting information on the pharmaceutical bags the advantages of hot stamping include:

- Hot stamping is a dry printing process, which does not involve solvents or require drying. Because of this, hot stamping is the only printing process that can be used in a clean room, right before the bags are filled.
- By imprinting the bags in the same space where the bags are filled, and with proper line-clearance procedures, it is virtually impossible to get contents into a bag with the wrong label copy.
- Lot or batch number and expiration date can be inserted into the hot stamp die, and printed together with the rest of the copy. This eliminates a separate operation.
- Liquid contents of the bags are usually made in a batch process. With some spillage to be expected, it is impossible to accurately predict the exact yield in units from a given batch. If the bags are imprinted prior to filling and outside the clean room, extra bags may be made and discarded if the batch runs out before all available bags are filled. On the other hand, some of the batch may have to be discarded if not enough bags with the correct imprint were made. Either way can be costly, if bags or liquid are not completely utilized. By hot stamping in-line with filling, just enough bags can be printed to finish the batch.
- With proper layout, it is possible to hot stamp two colors with a single hot stamp die. For example: print a product headline or caution message in red, and the balance of the copy in black or blue.
- Hot stamping can be done on a variety of plastic substrates including: PE and PP (no treatment of the surface is necessary). The imprint will not be affected by various sterilization methods such as steam autoclave, ETO or radiation.



Advantages of Hot Stamping – Pharmaceutical Bags

Major manufacturers of pharmaceutical bags choose hot stamping over other printing methods for the following reasons:

1. Security and Safety – Accurate match between label copy and contents is assured.
2. Economy and Savings – Exact number of bags are imprinted, not more, not less.
3. Efficiency – Lot number and expiration date are imprinted simultaneously with main label copy.
4. Flexibility – Hot stamp machines can be stopped for operator break without worry that ink will dry on the equipment. No clean-up required at end of shift or workday.
5. Cleaner Process – No solvents, no odor, and no fire hazard.
6. Ease of Operation – No special operator skills are required.
7. Quality – Consistent and easy-to-read imprint.

NOTE: Instructions given herein are approximate and adjustment may be required in adapting materials for use in any specific application. The data presented is a result of careful and extensive research. However, since the actual conditions under which the materials may be used are beyond our control, no warranty of any kind, expressed or implied, concerning the use of the products is made. Date: 06/30/04.