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Box plant quality measurement: why test?

Scope

The following is information describing why quality testing is a necessity for any corrugated plant.

Safety precautions

There are no safety precautions.

Content

If we are to deliver quality, we must have ways of measuring it.

More and more box customers are demanding a higher level of quality and performance than ever before. Box quality today means much more than just insuring that the box meets the applicable carrier rules. For instance, many boxes must run efficiently over high-speed packaging equipment. This automatically demands a higher level of performance than is required when boxes are set up and filled manually.

Some quality parameters can be measured with a tape measure (size and slot depth). Other quality parameters can be measured visually (print legibility, color, unit load straightness). Certain quality or performance parameters require a test (starch viscosity, caliper, compression, ECT values) for proper evaluation.

Frequently, use is made of SPC techniques to look at an entire process, and determine if the process is capable of producing products which meet customer requirements.

Whether we are measuring to check a set-up, checking individual corrugated characteristics, or recording data on an SPC chart, we should use test data to help us run more effective box making operations.

The purpose of running a test is to determine if we are producing a quality product. We must always run tests properly so that we get a true answer. The object of running a test is not to get a good test result. The object of running a test is to find out how well we are doing. If we are not doing well, we should follow up with corrective actions to the materials or to the process being used.

Some tests can be run in such a way that we get results that say the quality is better than it really is. If we do this knowingly, we are only kidding ourselves. Tests must be run with the attitude that they tell us something about our process and raw materials. We must use test information to help us run our processes more effectively and to achieve superior quality.

Test procedures should be carried out exactly and test data should be reported just as it is found.

We must know that we are shipping boxes that meet our customers' requirements.

Keywords

Quality, Statistical methods, Converting plants

Additional information

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