

- 1 New HCS Slug Wrapper
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- 4 Slug wrapper application

Crispy crackers

for the North American market

Whether as a snack food with various dips, as a complete meal, or as an accompaniment to soups and salads, salted crackers enjoy enormous popularity worldwide. A well-known US manufacturer has now chosen the system competence of Bosch Sigpack Systems for the slug packaging of its crackers.

Sigpack Systems is clearly number one in the area of slug-packaging solutions and, as a general contractor, it is able to provide the integration of an entire system, including third-party components. As a result, a well-known US company, that supplies the entire US market with salted crackers, has recently chosen a new, economical three-leg system from Sigpack Systems to replace an existing four-leg system.

Economic, airtight seals

Very fragile, tasty crackers make high demands on a system when being pack-

aged at high speeds and with high efficiency. For example, the sealed seams of the slugs must be optimally closed to guarantee the best possible humidity barrier for the sensitive product. Besides this, the precise product handling can also save approximately five percent in packaging material costs.

Optimum product flow

The crackers arrive at the machine in the form of a perforated product carpet and are broken crosswise into strips, stacked diagonally at 30° and then fed into the lengthwise breaking unit. Optimal transi-

tions ensure that the product carpet position is precisely maintained. In this way, the cracker, with its typical comb edge, can be processed without problems.

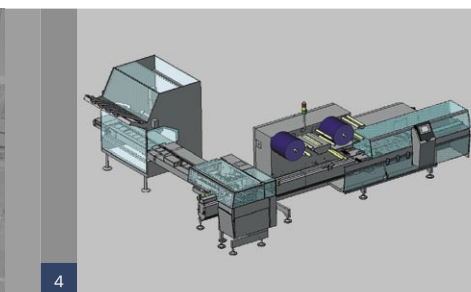
The 24 columns lanes that are created in the breaking process are divided into three groups of eight columns by the spreading mechanism conveyor. Conveyor belts then feed the salt crackers to the vibrator channels, which function as a buffer for adjustment to the production fluctuations of the entire system. This allows compensations to be made for system breakdowns of up to two minutes,



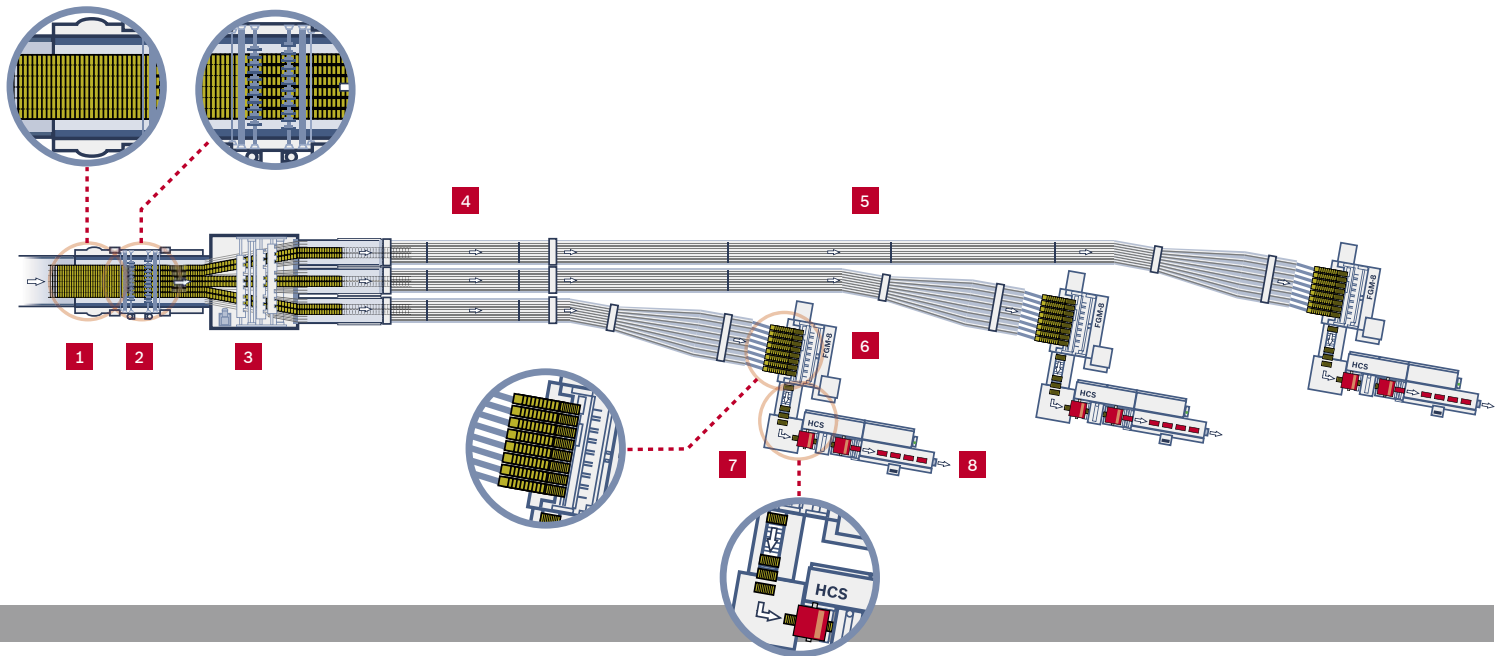
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|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Product from Process | 7 FCC Cross Chain |
| 2 Breaking lengthwise | 8 HCS Slug Wrapper |
| 3 Spreading for three legs | |
| 4 Belt system | |
| 5 Vibrator channel / Buffer | |
| 6 FGM Measuring Feeder | |

without a negative effect on efficiency. The channel sections are also individually controlled to prevent pressure on the product from exceeding permissible limits. This allows the slug portions to be correctly formed later down the line.

Accessible, flexible and gentle

For the formation of the slug portions, the newly revised FGM Measuring Feeder comes into play. This unit is remarkable, as it offers outstanding accessibility. It fulfills the highest hygiene requirements and is even more flexible owing to new servo technology. For example, the crank-driven adjustment of the separating blade now requires only two to three minutes. This used to involve several work steps, requiring a time span of between 20 to 30 minutes. In addition, movement sequences are performed product-optimized via servo technology. The infeed angle of five or 30 degrees is defined with the start of the project ac-

ording to the product requirements. Eight slug portions are gently laid down in the FCC Cross Chain and then pushed into the feed chain. The individual portions are fed lengthwise to the new HCS Slug Wrapper and packaged with a nominal output of 146 pieces (portions) per minute. Four slug portions are then packaged in a folding carton.

On show at PackExpo

This is the first time that the new slug-packaging platform has been presented to the US market and you can inspect a complete leg of the cracker system in detail, including products, at PackExpo in Chicago.

Did you know...

...that Bosch has the most extensive product portfolio for biscuit and baked goods packaging on the market? Robots or manipulators, belt and buffer systems, the most diverse feeders and channels,

tray and tube loaders, and solutions for roll, flexible bag, slug and standing bag packaging are all available and come from a manufacturer with proven Bosch quality! Our range and quality is recognized throughout the world and leads to impressive numbers. For example, there are over 800 Bosch measuring, counting and blending feeders in use worldwide.

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