

Lakeside Foods New Microwavable Doy Bag for Frozen Vegetables is Hot with Customers



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When Lakeside Food's customers requested a new package style, stand-up doy bags, for their microwavable frozen vegetables packages, Lakeside turned to Bosch Packaging Technology. Lakeside needed a machine that could not only produce the doy style package, but could also package their vegetables in the traditional pillow and gusseted bags that still made up a large part of their business. The requirements for multiple bag styles is one of the reasons why Mark Dreidric, General Manager, Manitowoc Distribution Center (pictured at right with the new stand-up doy pouch) and the Lakeside team selected the Bosch SVE 3600 WR vertical form-fill-seal bagger.



Founded in 1887, Lakeside Foods is a leading international private label food processor. Best known for their vegetables, both canned and frozen, they also produce shelf stable meals, canned meats, and other food items. Lakeside Foods is headquartered in Manitowoc, WI, and has grown to include fifteen plants and eight distribution centers throughout the U.S. Midwest.

Their success can be traced to an unwavering commitment to quality and their ability to quickly react to their private label customer's needs. It's no surprise then, that when their customers began requesting microwavable stand-up doy pouches for frozen vegetables, they quickly responded by installing two new packaging lines at their Manitowoc Distribution Center.



16 Head Yamato Scale weighing mixed vegetables into a Bosch SVE 3600 WR VFFS machine

The Manitowoc Distribution Center serves as the primary frozen vegetable packaging facility for the company. Employing close to 200 full-time employees, the plant packages everything from frozen vegetable blends to straight vegetables, and even vegetables with cheese and other sauces. When the demand came for the plant to package its broad range of IQF vegetables in a stand-up doy pouch, the plant General Manager, Mark Dreidric, knew he would need new equipment. None of their existing vertical form-fill-seal (VFFS) machines could produce the modified doy package customers were looking for.

The Lakeside team reviewed offerings from multiple vendors and decided to purchase two Bosch SVE 3600 WR continuous motion VFFS baggers integrated with 16 head Yamato scales. “Others in the industry recommended the Bosch baggers,” stated Mark “and they had the most experience with this bag style in the U.S. so we choose to go with Bosch.” Also important in Lakeside’s decision was the fact that the Bosch baggers were made in the U.S., at Bosch’s facility in New Richmond, WI so they could count on local, knowledgeable support.

Installed in September, 2010, Lakeside uses the Bosch SVE 3600 WR baggers to package their many types of IQF vegetables in pillow, gusseted, and the new doypacks. “The machine has a lot of capabilities and can do different kinds of bags that we aren’t necessarily doing now, including flat bottom bags,” remarks Mark. “Bag style flexibility was important to Lakeside Foods,” notes Jerry Kasmiskie, sales representative for Bosch at Technical Packaging Machinery, “they are able to utilize the machines over their entire product line, from standard pillow bags to the new doypacks, while providing them the flexibility to offer flat bottom bags should customers request that pack style in the future.”



SVE 3600WR Vertical-Form-Fill-Seal Bagger

Of course with all the combinations between product and bag styles, changeover times are critical to the facility’s efficiency. “We do a lot of changeovers here,” states Mark, “Changeovers are easy with the Bosch machines, and most are tool-less.” Between each changeover the machines are sanitized to prepare them for the next run. The open frame construction of the Bosch baggers makes them easy to clean and Lakeside’s sanitation program takes only a few minutes on the Bosch baggers.

The two new packaging lines at the Manitowoc Distribution Center have been successful for Lakeside Foods and have operated without problem since their installation. “In fact,” remarks Mark, “the machines are simple enough to operate that we were able to successfully set them up to run doypacks for the first time without help from Bosch.” “Additionally, the Bosch machines use many off-the-shelf components that are commercially available, so we have been able to easily, and inexpensively stock spare parts,” said Mark.

“I am glad to see the machines performing well and meeting with Lakeside’s high level of expectations,” concludes Jerry.

The new packaging lines help Lakeside continue its winning formula of meeting new customer needs with high quality products, ensuring Lakeside Food’s continued leadership in private label food processing.

For further information please contact:

Bosch Packaging Technology, Inc.
869 South Knowles Avenue
New Richmond, WI 54017

Telephone: (715) 246-6511
Email: sales.packaging-nrd@bosch.com
www.boschpackaging/nrd.com