

Packaging Automation Ltd: Secure IP6K9K connections for high-speed tray sealers – Han® F+B



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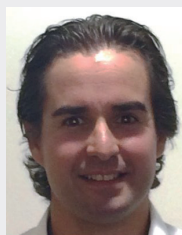
The requirements for production plants in the food and beverage industry are high. It is crucial to avoid contaminations caused by residues of foodstuff on components, such as motors and connectors. This is achieved by regular high-pressure cleaning cycles and caustic cleaning chemicals. In order to make a plant resistant against these kind of cleanings, its components have to meet certain conditions.



Steve Woodhead, electrical engineer at Packaging Automation Ltd and Gary Doyle, regional manager UK at HARTING



Steve Woodhead



Gary Doyle

To take advantage of the use of connectors in the food industry, Packaging Automation Ltd, a company that designs and builds high-speed tray sealers, relies on the Han® F+B connector made by HARTING.

Packaging Automation Ltd. (PA) from Knutsford, UK, provides packaging solutions for the food and beverage industry. The third generation family-owned company established itself as a producer of packaging machines focusing on the design and production of high-speed tray sealers and pot fillers. The machines can be used to pack different kinds of foodstuffs and are successful on both the UK and the export market.

In previous years, water ingress has been a problem with IP68 glands and connections. Ingress was caused by the use of harsh caustic

chemicals as well as high-pressure cleaning machines in conjunction with high temperatures. The approval of the Han® F+B connector for use in 2016 has solved this problem, reports Steve Woodhead, electrical engineer at PA, putting the product's reliability down to a "perfectly designed industrial connector and a key understanding from HARTING on what our need was from the outset." The use of the Han® F+B connector has further advantages.

According to Woodhead, "standardisation on the lower part of the machine has now taken place. We can easily change inserts without having to resign the whole metal work, if one of our customers wants to change an option." Moreover, it enables PA to connect other components, such as suction devices, quickly and easily.

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Han® F+B in action, configured as hood with angled bulkhead mounted housing

Good reasons for the Han® F+B connector:

- Quick modification, maintenance and refitting
- IP69K easy to clean hoods and housings for efficient cleaning
- Straight and angled bulkhead mounted housings for different applications
- Covers for hoods and housings to protect the contacts when unmated
- Many different inserts for data, signals and power
- Cable to cable hood to retrofit and enhance existing machines



“Standardisation on the lower part of the machine has now taken place. We can easily change inserts without having to redesign the whole metal work, if one of our customers wants to change an option. Further we approached HARTING with the request for a brand new

in-line cable to cable connection. This opens options for some variations of machines. The Han® F+B connector allows secure IP69K connections for extensions or the elimination of junction boxes down a production line.”

Steve Woodhead, electrical engineer at Packaging Automation Ltd

The Han® F+B connector features IP69K protection which makes it suitable for high-pressure cleaning. An ECOLAB certification confirms its resistance to common cleaning chemicals. In combination with the stainless steel that the machine is made of it becomes easy to clean and wash down any residues. The hood and housings can be equipped with a variety of inserts from the Han® 3 A series, including inserts for data, signals and power

supply. This feature makes the connector a flexible system that can be adapted to individual applications and facilitates the design of modular machines.



A variety of possible configurations: hood at the top, inserts in the center, bulkhead mounted housings at the bottom and covers for hood and housing on the right and left

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