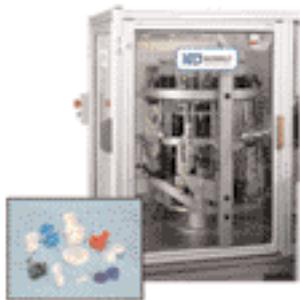


In the Spotlight

Pharmaceutical Science & Technology Innovations



Hinged-Lid Closing Machine Type 7
(Norwalt Design Inc.)

Cap-Closing Machine Offers Continuous Motion

A high-speed closing machine from Norwalt Design Inc. (Randolph, NJ) is designed to gently close hinged-lid caps on vials.

With a continuous motion design, the machine “floats” the caps over the vials with a pivoting roller. An articulating tooling mechanism automatically straightens the caps for accurate closure. “This design is more forgiving and flexible than systems that use bars to close lids,” says Michael Seitel, operations manager at Norwalt Design Inc. “In addition, mechanics won’t have to touch the infeed guides.”

The tooling mechanism is custom-engineered for each closure and works with most hinge designs. Standard features include a touch screen, closed-lid inspection system, and an integrated rejection station. Speeds of 300 parts/min can be achieved.

Circle/eINFO 170



Bulk Bag Discharger
(Spiroflow Systems, Inc.)

Emptying System for Bulk Bags and Rigid Bins

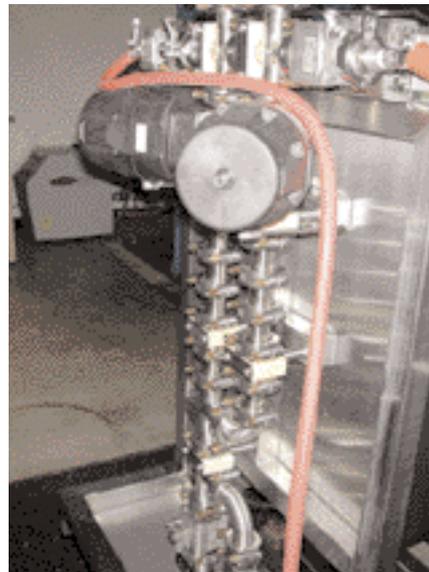
The “Type 7” discharger from Spiroflow Systems, Inc. (Charlotte, NC) allows processors to empty materials from bulk bags, rigid bins, Octabins, or sacks.

A bulk bag or rigid container is placed on a subframe and fork channels lift the container for loading onto the discharger. The system has a hopper and flexible spiral screw conveyor which feed the contents from the bag by either volume or weight to process or packaging machinery. The upper frame uses a sealing mechanism that eliminates product loss during discharge.

“The system can achieve containment levels of 0.025 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$,” comments Malcolm Ranson, deputy CEO at Spiroflow Systems, Inc. “Historically, people had to use rigid bins to achieve high levels of containment, but now you can use disposable bulk bags that don’t require revalidation.”

The system can be integrated into an existing process line and is compatible with most types of conveyors.

Circle/eINFO 171



Steam Skid
(Green, Tweed & Co.)

Mock-Up Steam-In-Place System Tests Sealing Components

Green, Tweed & Co.’s (Kulpsville, PA) steam skid evaluates the lifecycle of sanitary gaskets, seals, and diaphragms used for fluid handling applications.

The system records and documents test processes to simulate customers’ steam-in-place processes. By measuring the retained torque on clamps in the manifold pipe section, the performance of the sealing component can be determined. Consistent repetition of operational cycles can provide the data needed to establish service profiles and maintenance schedules. The system can evaluate as many as 28 gaskets at temperatures as high as 163 °C.

“Companies can’t break down a system to test a seal,” says Timothy Duzick, pharmaceutical marketing manager at Green, Tweed & Co. “This automated mock-up system can test the validity of elastomers and how long they can last before replacement is needed.”

Circle/eINFO 172

New Product Announcements

may be sent to New Products Editor, *Pharmaceutical Technology*, 485 Route One South, Building F, First Floor, Iselin, NJ 08830, Fax: 732.596.0005, ptpress@advanstar.com