

Austromatisierung

6/2019 · 29 August 2019

UNOFFICIAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION

The original article was published in German in Austromatisierung, a trade magazine published in Austria. Prepared for CRETEC. The German original remains the reference.

Austromatisierung Ausgabe 06.2019 ID-Qualität effizient managen



CRETEC Pressemappe

Stand: 05.2020

Seite 68 / 116

Managing ID quality efficiently

SOURCE EXCERPT ONLY: the supplied original contains article pages 122 and the following page, but ends mid-sentence at “für hohe” in the standards-compliant verification section. The continuation is missing. This translation includes all supplied article text and identifies the break; no continuation has been invented. Publisher cover: 29 August 2019. Original publisher artwork, logos and advertisements are retained in their original language.

How a universal code-reading system ensures standards-compliant code verification in the pharmaceutical industry

Managing ID quality efficiently



With its VisionTube code-reading system, German supplier Cretec guarantees standards-compliant code verification, for example in pharmaceutical and medical technology, where quality assurance and complete product traceability are a standardised obligation. The solution can be used as a manual inspection station or inline system, with simple operation and installation, high flexibility and performance. This concept creates many applications even in harsh industrial environments or with stricter hygiene requirements.

By Dipl.-Ing. Kamillo Weiß

Without quality assessment, poor codes are only detected when reading problems arise. Errors in 1D or 2D codes, on labels or in DPM (Direct Part Mark) codes can have many adverse or serious consequences and generate costs throughout the process chain. Production lines may have to slow down or stop; additional costs arise from re-marking, reduced read rates, scrap or false rejects, customer dissatisfaction and

complaints, recourse and even liability claims, problems with quality certification and much more.

Not every verifier fully supports all standards. Previously, there have been either manual inspection stations or systems permanently integrated into the production line at considerable expense. VisionTube's unique concept as a universal code verifier opens up many fields of use. Highly

reliable code-quality inspection starts with just one button press, for sampling or triggered series inspection. It operates independently without a PC and is completely made in Germany. Detailed verification results enable early corrective action throughout the automated identification process.

Essentially, VisionTube is a complete, modular, open vision system that combines all tasks in a single device: checking code structures, reading human-readable text (OCR), comparing it with code contents, serialisation tasks, checking the presence, readability and quality of best-before dates, checking component presence and much more.

No gaps in information

Medical-device manufacturers, for example, share responsibility for patient safety and must demonstrate the technical safety of supplied components. Since March 2019, a quality management system compliant with ISO 13485:2016 has been required. Evidence of such a QM system forms the basis for legitimate CE

marking of medical devices on the European market. Manufacturers can save time and costs by selecting ISO 13485-certified suppliers.

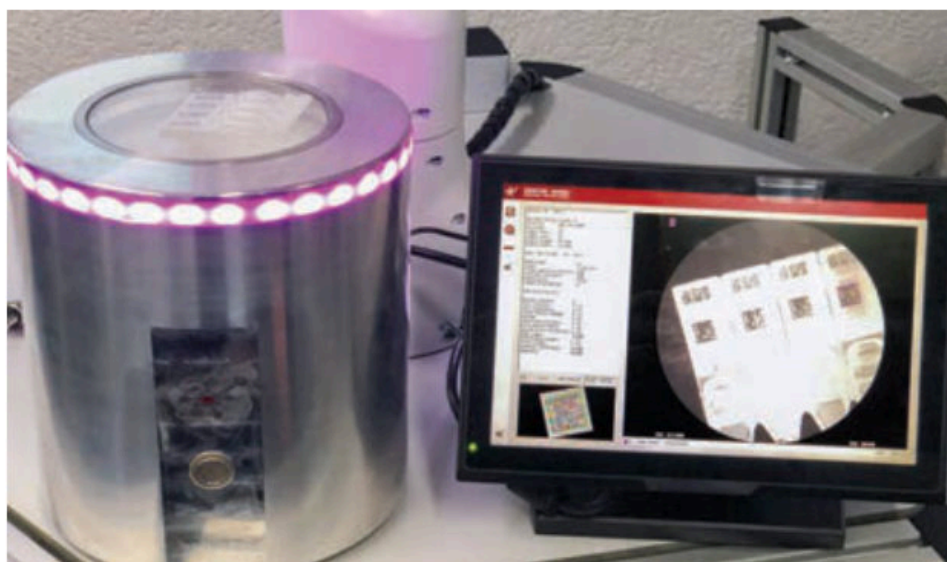
Accordingly, complete traceability by code is essential in almost every area of medical technology and its products. In hospitals, for example, the particularly stringent requirements for verifying surgical-instrument codes must be reliably met both during manufacture and after refurbishment. Linear, 2D matrix or OCR codes are permanently and tamper-resistently laser-marked onto polished, shiny surfaces. However, the highly aggressive solvents used for sterilisation can cause chemical reactions in the hardened steel at the codes and lead to corrosion. Completely reliable verification is therefore extremely important even for individual parts or small batches.

Standards-compliant verification

Code verification - classification of all quality parameters - differs fundamentally from simply reading codes. Many mechanical parameters (shiny surfaces) and optical parameters (illumination) must be managed precisely. Numerous features relating to size, resolution, defects, reflection and contrast must be detected. This requires analysing large amounts of data in the shortest possible time for high ...

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The compact design, modular pre-calibrated lighting options, powerful functions and flexibility make VisionTube ideal for integration and combination in complete, fully automatically controlled manufacturing cells.



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