

# ISHIDA X-RAY PROVIDES EXTRA LAYER OF SECURITY FOR BOTTLED BABY MILK

Case Study  
**Candia**

## Facts and figures

- » Candia is inspecting 10 million polypropylene bottles of baby milk a year (6,000 bottles per hour) with an Ishida side-beam X-ray.
- » The Ishida side beam model is checking for contamination and correct fill level.
- » The side beam X-ray footprint is the shortest on the market.
- » The system also offers automatic bottle pitch control.

One of France's largest milk producers is inspecting 10 million polypropylene bottles of infant formula a year using the new Ishida IX-GA-B3043 side beam X-ray inspection system. Candia is part of Sodiaal, France's leading milk products cooperative. At its factory near St Étienne the company makes baby milks for different age-ranges up to three years old, each optimised for healthy progress within a particular growth phase.

## Challenge

Candia decided to set up a new production line to fill baby milks into 70ml polypropylene bottles, foil-sealed but with a threaded top able to take a standard screw-on teat, for the export market. As part of its rigorous approach to safety, the company sought an X-ray inspection system specifically designed for monitoring liquids in plastic bottles, cartons and upright pouches.

## Solution

The chosen solution was an Ishida IX-GA-B3043 side-beam unit. Partly owing to Ishida's unique Genetic Algorithm, which greatly improves image processing, the system offers best-in-class sensitivity and can pick up even tiny pieces of metal, glass, bone, shell, grit, plastic or hard rubber.

This model has plenty of headroom (310mm) in its inspection chamber for upright containers, yet the geometry of the chamber and its infeed and outfeed is such that radiation is fully contained without the need for curtains. Its footprint is the shortest of any side beam system on the market, making it easier to fit in when line space is limited. The system also offers automatic bottle pitch control.





“ Although we record very few rejects (approx. 7 out of 100,000 bottles), the presence of the Ishida side beam X-ray inspection system allows us to offer our customers extra evidence of our production quality. ”

Like the other models in the Ishida IX-GA range, the side beam X-ray offers excellent interaction (via Ethernet or cards) with existing information systems to provide secure, retrievable records. Its colour touchscreen interface is simple to learn and operate and the whole system is designed for fast, easy cleaning.

The 6-layer polypropylene bottles for Candia are made off-site. On arrival, they are trimmed and rinsed before entry into a cleanroom where they are sterilised, then presented at the filling station. The filled bottles are sealed with foil under an inert atmosphere. On leaving the cleanroom they are subjected to X-ray inspection, and pack and seal integrity are checked. Labelling is also checked, before they are placed in cartons and palletised. Following this the bottles remain on-site for at least three weeks in order to allow full time for thorough analysis of the results of the many tests each batch of product undergoes. The product itself has a shelf life of nine months.

The new line is producing about 6,000 bottles per hour with a high degree of confidence. As factory manager Gaëtan Moyroud, says:

“Although we record very few rejects (something of the order of seven units per 100,000 bottles), the presence of the Ishida inspection system on our line allows us to offer our customers extra evidence of our production quality.”

Candia was the first company in France to purchase the IX-GA-B3043.



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