

ISHIDA HELPS STREAMLINE PRODUCTION PROCESSES FOR FRUIT AND VEGETABLES

Case Study
Agram S.A.

Facts and figures

- » The weigher incorporates Ishida's advanced triple-combination software that calculates three optimum weight combinations.
- » Finished packs can be policed to tight weight tolerances, both to reduce product giveaway and to comply with average weight regulations.
- » The Ishida multihead and checkweigher combination is operating at 30 to 50 packs per minute across Agram's entire range of products.

The introduction of a new multihead weigher from Ishida Europe has enabled Polish company Agram S.A., a frozen fruits and root vegetables specialist, to increase line speeds and efficiency, and improve product quality. Agram has been in operation since 1974 and processes approximately 25,000 tonnes of raw materials every year, 90% of which come from Eastern Poland, the most fertile region of the country.

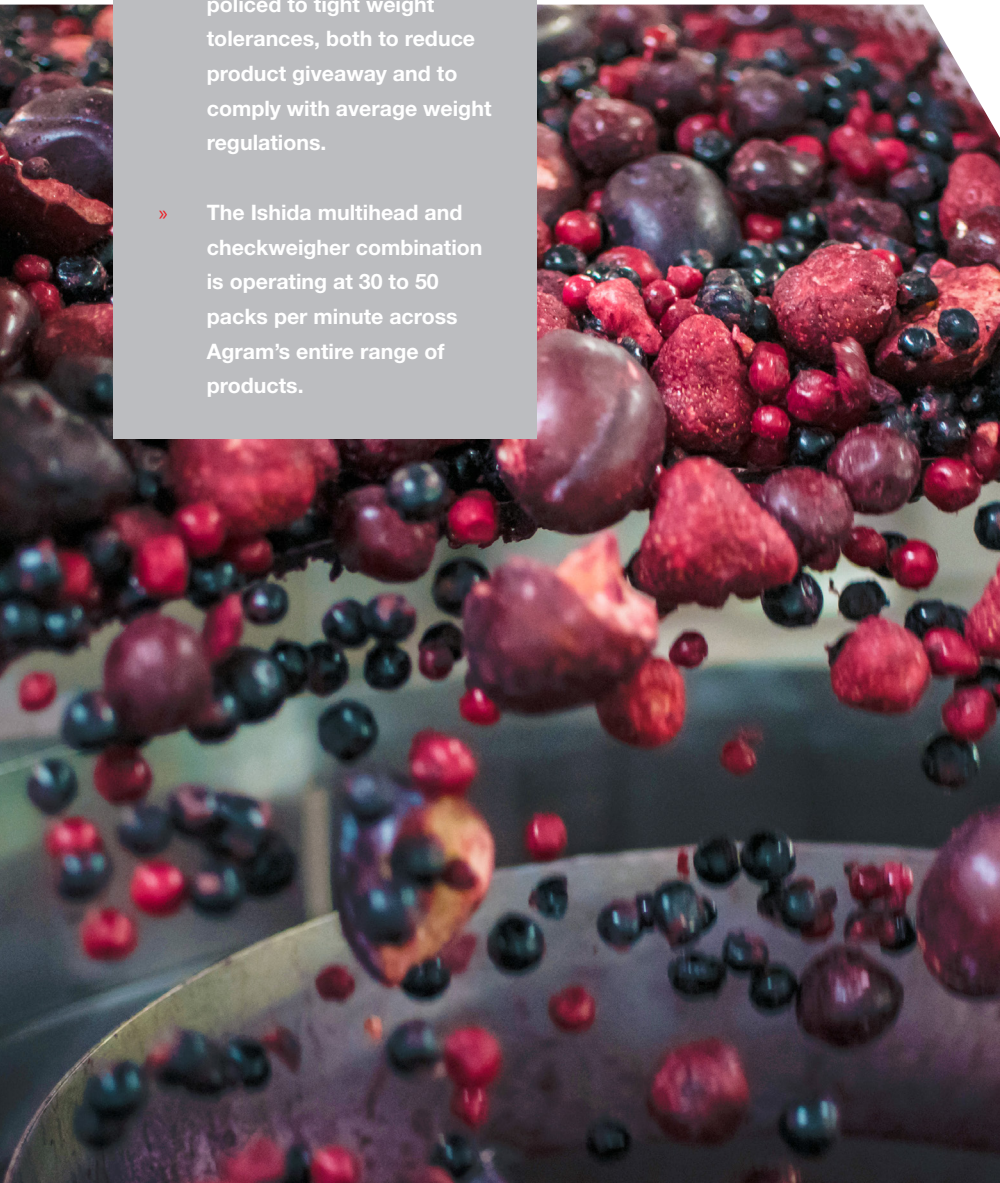
Challenge

The finished products are distributed to businesses in the industrial, retail, and foodservice sectors. In addition to Poland, Agram sells its goods throughout Europe as well as to the US, Canada, Japan, China, Israel, and Russia.

With such a wide product range and extensive supply chain, Agram needed to significantly increase the speed and efficiency of its weighing and packing machines. The company had already used Ishida equipment for eight years, and thanks to its reliability, decided to extend the existing production line with a 10-head model from Ishida's top-of-the-range CCW-RV series.

Solution

As the President of Agram, Boguslaw Demianiec, explains: "When choosing our machines, we take into consideration their quality and technical capabilities, and Ishida meets these requirements. The Ishida multihead weigher ensures reliable operation and practically zero unscheduled downtime with preventive service and maintenance in place." Mr Demianiec adds that "we decided to invest in Ishida to continue offering only the best products to our customers."





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All the weigh heads in the Ishida RV can be used in a single combination calculation. In particular, the weigher incorporates Ishida's advanced triple-combination software that calculates three optimum weight combinations which most closely meet the required target weight, double checks these, and then chooses the best of the three options. This unique Ishida feature increases the accuracy and consistency of the weighing process. In addition, Ishida's unique Anti-Floor Vibration technology stabilises the output signal from each weigh head against external vibration to maintain high speed and accuracy.

As well as the new multihead, Agram has also invested in a checkweigher from Ishida's DACS-G series. This means its finished packs can be policed to tight weight tolerances, both to reduce product giveaway and to comply with average weight regulations.

Before the upgrade, the line was sometimes in operation 24 hours a day. In contrast, when using the new Ishida multihead weigher and checkweigher Agram is able to finish a production order after 16-20 hours, thus freeing up valuable production capacity and re-deploying employees to the next order.

The Ishida multihead and checkweigher combination is operating at 30 to 50 packs per minute across Agram's entire range of products, including

single-ingredient vegetables (cauliflower, broccoli), mixed varieties, and fruits. These speeds are well below the machine's capabilities and only limited by the speed of the packaging machine.

In terms of the expected return on investment (ROI), Agram's CEO explains that this depends on the production volume, and that in perhaps three of four years more packing lines will be added.

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Another benefit for Agram was the operator training included in the purchase package by Ishida's Polish distributor Fenix Systems. "The excellent training provided by Fenix and Ishida made the whole project much easier and minimised any downtime both during the implementation phase and in production," concludes Boguslaw Demianiec.

Contact

Ishida Europe Limited

Tel: +44 121 607 7700
info@ishidaeurope.com

Kettles Wood Drive
Woodgate Business Park
Birmingham B32 3D
United Kingdom



www.ishidaeurope.com