



Perfect blueberry portions

The weighing systems from OCS Checkweighers prevent the costly overflow of fruit boxes

Birkensee Beerenkulturen has produced blueberries for more than 30 years in the town of Egelsbach in the German state of Hesse. For many years, this fruit producer has trusted the high precision weighing technology from OCS Checkweighers to ensure the proper portioning of the berries, which are picked by hand and placed directly into the serving containers. The correct portioning of the high quality product ensures containers arrive at the stores without the costly and unwanted losses caused by overfilling.

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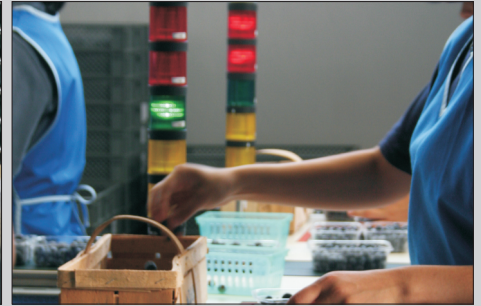
CHECKWEIGHERS

A Wipotec Brand

Christian Königler distributes only the harvests from his own farming operation. The experienced blueberry grower is aware of the sensitivities of his customers, who prefer to enjoy the berries directly, or in quark, in fruit salads, or with their cereal. The fact that the berries are harvested straight from

weigh cell reliably performs each measurement. Every container is weighed with great accuracy and the result is conveniently displayed on the control panel of the checkweigher. If an incorrect weight is determined for a container, the system quickly and reliably separates the container. These

says the satisfied fruit farmer. He highlighted another advantage in using the OCS technology: "The weighing process can be replicated and it is less dependent on the intuitive observations of the individual workers."



the bushes and into the serving containers requires only the minimum of touches and documents the gentle handling of the fruit.

The producer's emphasis on top quality applies, in particular, to the careful harvesting of his goods and the portion-wise packaging of the berries. Christian Königler relies on weighing technology from OCS Checkweighers. "The scales are the technical centerpiece of our operations," explains the businessman. The fruit containers are transported on pallets directly from the fields and arrive at the warehouse stacked in stairs where they are first individually weighed by hand on static scales. The color of the indicator lamps on the scale shows whether there is a surplus or a deficit at hand. Moreover, because the weight of one berry is stored in the machine controls, beyond the color coded indication, the scales automatically display the number of berries that are missing or are in excess. It is then very easy for the operator, saving time and money, to offset the exact difference in every container.

High precision weighing for optimum control

After the manual weighing, comes the machine control: A conveyor belt transports the perfectly aligned fruit containers to the dynamic checkweigher, where a high quality, precision

faulty containers move immediately to a manual control point.

Christian Königler knows that the weight of the containers as shown on the labels may occasionally be more or less, as long as they are all within certain tolerances as provided in the German Finished Packaging Regulation. However, this producer is not interested in claiming the low end of this range for himself: "Negative tolerances do not sit well with the customer," explains the expert in revealing a valuable marketing policy based on experience that should not be underestimated. "The customer rather, is quite happy about every extra berry and," said Königler, "they should get to keep them." However, now with the weighing technology from OCS Checkweighers, this is controllable and much easier to manage.

"OCS helps provide real savings"

"We save money in effect with every container," said Königler. Prior to the installation of the OCS weighing system, we had to weigh the entire stair statically and then rely on the "eyeballs" for the subsequent offset to the container weight, which wasted a lot of product and of course, profit as well. The highly accurate weighing process using the checkweighers from OCS Checkweighers is simply in a class of its own in economic terms. "The wasteful excess now belongs to history thanks to OCS,"

OCS weighing systems operating elsewhere with strawberries and mushrooms

Königler is very comfortable with his decision for OCS Checkweighers and has nothing but praise for his technology partner, whose weighing systems are also in use at other customer locations for the precise weighing of strawberries or mushrooms. "The mature technology," according to Königler, "helps to save time and money because the precision machinery is practically maintenance free and, above all, has high availability and is easy to operate." This is a significant advantage, especially, when dealing with a seasonal work force. Christian Königler adds: "The atmosphere when performing weighing has improved. The job of the harvesters is accomplished much more easily now." We did contact other competitive suppliers at the time, but the combination of dynamic checkweighers with the upstream static weight measuring unit ultimately tipped the scales in favor of OCS Checkweighers. Christian Königler: "That was, without a doubt, the right decision."