

APPLICATION BREAKDOWN:

UV / Luminescent label Testing



When manufacturing consumer products like foodstuffs, pharmaceuticals and household goods the needs of Marketing departments and Manufacturing can be at odds. Marketing wants the most attractive packaging possible - colorful or clear labels, no registration marks, tiny barcodes, and invisible safety seals. Manufacturing wants clear, simple targets that can be reliably detected to aid in the automation of the packaging process.

A food manufacturer needed to add a sticker to a package to designate a different batch of product. They wanted to verify that the sticker had been placed on each package. The challenge was that they did not have the time and budget to implement a full vision system to detect the label, and a con-



trast sensor would not work because it could not differentiate between the sticker and other marks on the package.

They came to Sensors Inc. and asked them for recommendations. The Application Engineers recommended using a sticker coated with a luminescent ink. The luminescence of the label would be detected by a UV sensor.

Because there is ambient luminescence in many packaging materials it was important to find a luminescent dye that would stand out from the background packaging. It was determined that a dye that luminesced yellow gave the best contrast.

