

Formika

# The lid is just a cover

Aluminium lids, cosmetics and food sachets (including disposable promotional packaging), packaging for medicines, doypacks, soap wrappers, paper packaging for the food industry, IML labels, polypropylene foil, seasoning packages, mixpap and alu-pet. This is the range offered by Formika, a flexographic printer which it is safe to say has been known to every customer for many years. However, a visit to the recently built new factory, seeing the excellent organisation of work and international standards with your own eyes and discovering the details of packaging production also justify the statement that it is one of the most modern production plants in the world!

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**A**s always, the devil is in the detail, since behind the aluminium top for the meat industry there stands innovative technology enabling excellent adhesion of paint to the substrate during the sterilisation process. Cosmetics sachets using lamination in-line technology have filled a gap in the market by combining the unquestionable quality of the print with the safety of the product. The pharmaceutical blister packs are made in the only D class cleanroom in Central and Eastern Europe, which guarantees the sterility of production, while the latest product – the Neotec© lid, characterised



*"The lid is just a cover, we also conduct other business," say the company's representatives. This is the Formika for Children Foundation – the first organisation of its kind on the Polish polygraphic market. The main aim of the foundation is to bring help to children, young people and their parents in difficult life or material situations. The foundation also assists institutions such as children's homes, shelters for single mothers, residential homes, schools and kindergartens.*



*Joanna Dębicka, Piotr Dębicki and Sławmoir Walendowki (deputy mayor of Brwinów) during the opening ceremony of the new factory located in Parzniew.*

by its lack of embossing – was created as an effect of seeking an alternative solution to the patent-protected lid with heat-sealing lacquer and has been holding its own on the market for several months now. Just like the new factory.

## 9 months

Formika's new production plant, located in Parzniew outside Warsaw, was opened on 7th January 2014 after 9 months of building work (the ground was symbolically broken on 25th March 2013). "The concept of it was created on a sheet of paper. We knew, based on our previous location, exactly what solutions to avoid and what the factory should look like. When our idea had taken on its final shape, we of course handed it over to professional designers," said



The new factory also means new investments: the printing line and die-cutting machine, fully automated ink kitchen, scrap removal system and special solvent distillation room.



Joanna Dębicka, chairwoman of Formika. "And please believe me, 90% of that initial concept was realised." The opening ceremony of the factory late last May formed an opportunity to give thanks to all those who contributed to its existence. Piotr Dębicki, vice-chairman of Formika, addressed the employees to thank them for achieving the almost impossible. "We have moved all our machines from the old site to the new one

within just two weeks. As you know, the FMCG market only really slows down for one week a year, after Christmas. So that was the only time when we could move our factory, in other words stop the machines, switch off production. We managed! Between 18th December and 4th January this logistical undertaking took place, then the factory almost immediately started back work on all shifts."

## 100 million

The factory is dedicated to packaging for the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries. Its production capacity is around 100 million LM, but at this stage of planning the investment it has been designed in such a way that it can easily be expanded. Covering nearly 6,000m<sup>2</sup>, it includes Central and Eastern Europe's only D-class cleanroom (ISO 8), where aluminium packaging is produced for medicine. The entire production process, from printing, slitting and winding to packing, takes place under sterile conditions. 26 HEPA filters, a system of sluices and appropriate pressure levels in individual rooms guarantee safe conditions for the manufacture of packaging for medicines. The plant is equipped with showering and changing rooms where all employees are obliged to wash before entering the production area, and different marked zones regulate the flow of people and raw materials.

The machine park consists of 8- and 9-colour printing machines, die - cutters, rewinding machines and bobbin cutting machines, which enables the highest possible quality printing to be achieved on many base materials, such as aluminium, paper,



The new headquarters is a typical Greenfield project, located just over a kilometre from built-up areas, but only 3km from access to the A2 motorway. It is one of the most modern plants in Europe dedicated to producing packaging for the food, pharmaceutical and cosmetics industries.



PET, OPP and laminates of every kind. The flexo HD technology used ensures smoother tonal transitions, a better colour range and sharper picture – all thanks to screen ruling increased to 200 lpi with the dimensions of the smallest point simultaneously reduced, and an increase in resolution (4,000 dpi). In addition, printing flexible packaging on flexo printers rather than rotogravure has reduced energy consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by as much as 50%. “Our technology has allowed us to produce even small print runs at reasonable prices. We supply laminates to most of the major cosmetics companies in Poland, and also collaborate with the leading packaging firms.”

## People

Meanwhile, the company's owners stress that apart from the modern technologies introduced in the factory, people are most important. “Without committed employees who identify with the company we certainly wouldn't be where we are now. Without the loyal customers who have been with us for so many years and without the suppliers who understand the FMCG market and its dynamics, Formika's expansion would certainly not have been so rapid. Also characteristics such as excellent product quality, flexibility and our approach to customers and their needs have meant we are able to grow from year to year. We promise you that we will continue to develop and that these qualities will continue to be the domain of Formika,” said Piotr Dębicki.

*The flow of raw materials and employees is regulated by three zones – the highest risk zone, the special care zone and the low risk zone. The use of wooden pallets is prohibited in the highest risk and special care zones.*



*The class D cleanroom (ISO 8) is where aluminium packaging for medicines is produced. The entire production process, starting from printing, slitting and winding, all the way up to packing, takes place in sterile conditions. A new Gallus printing machine stands in the cleanroom.*



An innovative product was launched simultaneously with the opening of the new factory, which forms an alternative to the solutions available on the market. This product, presented at this year's interack trade fair in Düsseldorf, is the Neotec© flat lid patented jointly with Formika's partners. The manufacturer considers that this solution looks great on shop shelves and reflects light well, which means that the colours are more saturated, resulting in it seen better by the end customer. Additionally, the packing machines can work on this product faster than on an embossed lid.

