



-ARCO

ARCO weighing lines for leading player in Canadian mushroom sector

Customer case | 2021

Table of contents

1. ARCO weighing lines for leading player in Canadian mushroom sector 03

2. Greenwood Mushrooms' challenge 04

3. Our smart weighing line 06

4. A successful collaboration 08

ARCO weighing lines for leading player in Canadian mushroom sector

Greenwood Mushrooms is one of the largest mushroom producers in Canada. Greenwood Mushrooms supplies mushrooms to both retailers and wholesalers in consumer and bulk packaging under the Windmill Farms brand. The company has become one of the largest players in the mushroom market with a wide distribution network in eastern Canada.



Greenwood Mushrooms' challenge

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Greenwood Mushrooms grows, weighs, packages, and transports the highest quality mushrooms 365 days a year. For Greenwood Mushrooms, the challenge was to weigh their mushrooms as accurately and efficiently as possible. Each punnet has to be of a minimum weight, but at the same time it is important that they are not overfilled. A few extra grams per punnet might not seem like a lot, but when you add up the giveaway weight of all those punnets, you can end up giving away huge amounts of product away for free. Greenwood Mushrooms also wanted the production process to be as streamlined as possible, without all the unnecessary operations and movements that result in downtime.





Our smart weighing line

Our smart weighing line

Our weighing lines keep giveaway weight to a minimum. A large crate of mushrooms is brought in on a conveyor belt and operators place the mushrooms into smaller punnets. ARCO's smart weighing system visually displays how many mushrooms need to be added or removed to reach the optimum weight. Punnets must never be below the minimum weight, but neither should they be overfilled. The punnets then move on to a control check. They are placed on the line and sorted into three categories by a check weigher; punnets at the right weight go straight to the packaging machine, underfilled and overfilled punnets are passed on to an operator for correction.

ARCO's weighing line stores the data of the processed punnets and provides operators with insights into their work, thereby offering opportunities to optimize operations further. Because the transportation, weighing, and packaging of the mushrooms is automated, the operator can spend less time on other issues, which in turn increases production. The check weighing stage ensures that no punnets leave the warehouse that differ too much from the pre-determined weight. This step requires no extra manpower or time, because good punnets automatically advance and punnets that are either underfilled or overfilled are automatically returned to the operators via a conveyor belt.

A successful collaboration

A successful collaboration

ARCO's weighing line has had a tremendous impact on Greenwood Mushrooms' production. As Greenwood Mushrooms puts it:

'ARCO's weighing line has had a major impact on our production. Our new system saves up to 6% in product loss. We look back on a successful project and a fruitful collaboration.'

ARCO was responsible for the development, engineering, and assembly of the complete mushroom weighing line. It was implemented in accordance with Canadian and North American GMF/CSA guidelines. ARCO's weighing line results in a saving of 4 to 6% in product loss thanks to the timely detection of overweight in the packaging. Assuming an annual production of 4 million kilos, this translates into an average saving (5%) of 200,000 kilos of mushrooms.

Additionally, this weighing line will also help the Canadian mushroom company to improve efficiency and significantly increase its production capacity. A single operator can correct up to 100 punnets per minute.



Need help with a technical issue?



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