

Identifying and Resolving Label Printing Issues in a GHS Label Printing System

Reliance saves a newly rolled-out chemical labeling system from derailing

Background

A world-leading manufacturer of digital inkjet, screen and narrow web printing inks and chemicals implemented a new SDS Authoring and label printing software system. A critical additional functional requirement of the system was an interface to a new Lexmark color laser printer for label printing. The company had determined that color laser printing would provide them maximum flexibility and cost control related to label inventory due to the very large number of items they were packaging, including private label.

Challenge

The new system implementation went smoothly until the company attempted to print labels.

The label printing problems were so severe that they almost de-installed the software and returned the label printer. The label problems included:

- Labels jamming in the printer
- Labels sheets sticking together (bricking) in the output bin
- Durability of the laser printed image on the label

Analysis

After learning of the company's labeling issues, Reliance Label Solutions conducted an in-plant evaluation. Based on this evaluation, Reliance discovered that the labels were jamming during the printing process due to static electricity that was forming on the face of the label. Static electricity was also causing the labels to become stuck together as they came out of the printer, making it very difficult to handle and apply the labels. Reliance also identified small but critical label design issues from the incumbent label vendor. These design issues resulted in label die cuts that caused multiple-sheet misfeeds. Based on this information and Reliance's expertise in labeling systems, including color laser printers, a recommendation was developed very quickly.

Solution

Reliance recommended changing the label face stock from polyester to vinyl. The polyester face stock, due to its' smoothness and tendency to receive and hold a static charge, is much more prone to static build-up. Reliance's proprietary top coatings on the vinyl face stock also help

improve feedability, reduce static and improve the durability of the printed image.

In addition to the label material changes, re-designs of several label formats were suggested to help the labels process more effectively through a laser printer. Finally, Reliance offered to train the company's staff to set up and maintain the printer correctly for label printing.

Implementation

The company accepted all of Reliance's recommendations for the material, label redesign and setup changes.

Results

The new system was successfully implemented, in its entirety, and has been exceeding their initial expectations ever since.

“Reliance has been an invaluable partner in helping us solve our label problems and ultimately improve our overall finished label product.”

– Regulatory Compliance Manager, Ink Manufacturer

About Reliance

Reliance Label Solutions specializes in manufacturing hazardous container labels for the Lubricant, Petroleum and Chemical industries. Our chemical drum labeling solutions provide successful GHS, Hazcom and IMDG labeling implementation. Reliance also provides DOT labeling, placarding and marking solutions.

"We're On It"® with certified materials, manufacturing best practices, our Vision® label printing software, inventory management and next day shipping. Our GHS compliant products include labels, label printing software, color printers and printing consumables.

Reliance has proudly served the Lubricant, Petroleum, Chemical, Distribution and Industrial markets for over 30 years. We are headquartered outside of Kansas City, KS and are ISO 9001:2015 quality certified.