



## **New medical package SterileVent by Multivac: Economical and sterilisable package**

Many medical devices, such as surgical instruments, catheters, dialysis equipment or implants, have to be sterilised with ethylene oxide after the packaging process. For these purposes Multivac, one of the world's leading manufacturers of packaging machines, has developed SterileVent, a medical package consisting of a plastic film (mainly of PA/PE) with a window of the polyethylene Tyvek® web by Dupont. Its major benefit: It combines the gas-permeability of Tyvek® with the economical advantages of plastic film. Thus SterileVent makes it possible to carry out sterilisation with ethylene oxide while cutting pack costs decisively.

The two materials are combined on a Multivac thermoform-fill-seal machine: a window is cut out of the upper web and the opening is closed securely by sealing a section of Tyvek®. A pack pocket tailor-made for the product is at the same time formed from the lower web where the product is put. Then the combined Tyvek®/film upper web is sealed to the packs which are separated without producing any residue. This procedure makes it possible that only a small part of the upper web has to consist of Tyvek, instead of the whole web.

The SterileVent technology provides cost savings from 60 % up to 80 %, depending on the package. The solution is particularly attractive for large sterile products, since the cost saving increases as the pack size increases. Thanks to the many different plastic films available nowadays, SterileVent can be customised to meet the demands of almost any package: The Tyvek window can be applied to practically any flexible film.

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The high strength of the sealed seam is another advantage, giving the product packaged additional protection during transport or storage and avoiding contamination. Moreover a choice of various opening aids is available, so that the pack is easy to open before use and so that the medical articles can be removed from the pack quickly, hygienically and immediately.

If it is also necessary for proof to be provided that the product has not been tampered with, certain sequences of characters or letters can be added to the sealed seam by the manufacturer as a guarantee. This tamper-evident closure is destroyed irreversibly when the pack is opened and confirms that the pack and the product have not suffered any manipulation while they were being transported from the manufacturer to their final destination. There are no restrictions on pack design either: printable plastic films offer scope for individual pack design features that communicate the brand message. The information that manufacturers are required to include with medical products can be applied directly to the film too, so that extra information leaflets are unnecessary.

Machines are available for every output range. Irrespective of whether devices are being produced in large quantities and at high speeds or if varying products with different weights, sizes and pack shapes need to be processed; Multivac, the packaging expert, supplies special machines customised to meet the requirements of every individual packaging assignment.

® Tyvec is a trademark registered by Dupont

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