Case study

Highly efficient expiration time labelling

Courtesy of Airbus Helicopters

Airbus Helicopters strives to provide the most efficient helicopter solutions to its customers who serve, protect, save lives and safely carry passengers in demanding environments.

Airbus Helicopters increased efficiency in dual component filler kit use by improving expiration time labelling.

Challenges

Airbus Helicopters was facing inefficiencies in expiration time labelling for dual component filler kits in its Airplane Doors department. Expiration times were added manually on preprinted labels with a variety of designs to fit the wide range of fillers in use.

Different mixtures are prepared simultaneously, each with different expiration times, and the manually completed labels sometimes proved inaccurate, fillers solidified, and needed to be mixed anew. Expert workers also needed to look closely to check expiration times, which could also result in loss of time and material.

Airbus wanted a solution to significantly increase the efficiency of dual component filler kit expiration date labelling, using a lean, minimal setup and 1 label only.

Solutions

We proposed a custom programmed, standalone BradyPrinter i7100 Industrial Label Printer. The printer's glove-responsive industrial touchscreen now shows the filler kits Airbus Helicopters uses. Workers need only to press the matching icon to get a label after confirming or editing the time of mixing. All expiration times per mix are pre-programmed in the BradyPrinter i7100 and are printed on Brady's B-424 paper label. Brady also proposed the label design in line with specifications from Airbus Helicopters.

Results

Airbus Helicopters now uses several efficient expiration time labelling workstations that do not even need a computer. The number of different pre-printed labels has been replaced with one label roll and expiration time is no longer added manually. Skilled workers can now work faster, with fewer labelling mistakes and they can recognise much faster which filler mixture to use.

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