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Winner of an Alufoil Trophy 2009

Creative development for medical lidding

Tamper evidence and anti-counterfeiting are high on the list of requirements for medicinal and pharmaceutical products and an ingenious lidding film featuring partial lamination using an anti-counterfeiting alufoil layer won an Alufoil Trophy 2009 for Teich AG, part of the Constantia Flexibles Group.

Being used by Abbott Laboratories for medical lidding on its plastic trays of HUMIRA pre-filled syringes, Teich AG's development features a security foil layer and a paper layer; partial lamination between the layers provides proof of tampering. The adhesive between the two substrates is not applied to the entire contact surface between the materials and this means that, depending on the "design" in which the adhesive is applied, the overall bond strength between the substrates can be reduced in selected areas.



In the HUMIRA application alufoil is the ideal material for partial lamination as the relationship between elastic and plastic deformation can be used to create permanent visual and palpable marks. The partial lamination, together with the combination of permanent and peelable heat-seal lacquers are vital elements in achieving tamper evidence as packs cannot be opened without destroying the lidding material.

When opened properly the lidding first peels and then continues to tear but if the packs are accessed in areas other than those designated, the foil remains on the tray and the paper starts to delaminate. This again destroys the lidding material and prevents the illegal use of genuine packaging parts.

Another major benefit of this solution is the easy opening system, which allows even patients with limited physical abilities to open the pack without difficulty.

Head judge Hilka Bergmann, director packaging research at EHI Retail Institute in Germany, said, "This innovative development provides proof of the versatility of alufoil by exploiting its many attributes for use in the demanding market for medical applications."

Additionally, the development offers good machining performance on existing packaging lines and easy integration of anti-counterfeiting technologies like Constantia Flexibles' Security Foil that features an integrated design in the alufoil surface. Other anti-counterfeiting technologies such as colour-shifting inks, UV/IR reactive inks, Guilloche Designs and taggants, can also be easily integrated.

“Winning an Alufoil Trophy underlines our technical leadership for tamper-evident and anti-counterfeiting features for alufoil-based pharmaceutical packaging materials. It also addresses the growing problem of illegally “recycling” genuine packaging parts for expensive medicines. Tamper-evident packaging systems are keys to securing pharmaceutical products and we actively support our customers in achieving this goal,” said Stefan Schmid, Product Manager for Pharma/Healthcare Packaging, Constantia Flexibles.

The annual Alufoil Trophy is organised by the European Aluminium Foil Association.

High resolution pictures of all winners are available at www.alufoil.org.

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