



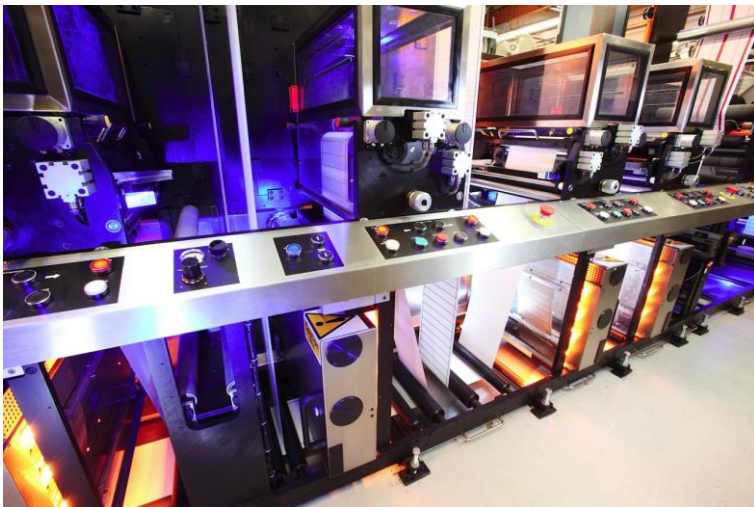
Infrared Helps Improve Quality and Productivity of Flexographic printing

Short wave and carbon infrared (CIR) emitters from Heraeus Noblelight are helping Zebra Technologies Europe of Preston to improve the productivity of their custom-built flexographic printing presses and the quality of the finished printed products. The emitters have also proved to have an extensive, reliable and consistent working life, which has provided further operating cost savings.

Zebra Technologies is a US-owned company which provides the broadest range of innovative technology solutions to identify, track and manage the deployment of critical assets for improved business efficiency. Its Specialty Printing Group (SPG) designs, manufactures and sells specialty thermal transfer printing devices that print variable information on demand at the point of use, for applications such as hospital wrist bands, self-adhesive labels and customized identification cards. To supply these printing devices, Zebra pre-prints customized labels and specific printed items at its Preston facility, using its purpose-designed flexo printing presses.

An important part of the flexo printing process is the drying of the water-based and UV inks used in the printing presses which can print up to ten colors. This must be carried out as efficiently and quickly as possible to meet quality specifications and to achieve optimum productivity. Having considered warm air ovens for the water-based inks, Zebra eventually installed carbon infrared and short wave emitter's in-line with the printing process.

These have consistently performed reliably and effectively and, as Mark Richmond, project engineer at Zebra, explains, "The infrared drying system allows us to achieve line speeds of up to 300 m/min, while the system's fast response ensures that there is minimal damage to paper in the system in the event of unexpected shut down. We are committed to infrared drying and we are especially pleased with the exceptional lifetimes of the Heraeus emitters."



Features

- pre-printing of customized labels
- drying of water-based inks
- flexo printing process

Technical Data

- short wave and carbon infrared emitters in-line with the printing process
- line speeds of up to 300 m/min

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