

Choice based on price/quality criteria

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Ysco is a satisfied user of Lantech's Speedpack case erectors supplied by Gilpack. There are some twenty units to date at the factories in Langemark and Argentan.

'We sell five million liters of ice cream during the winter. This ramps up to 35 million liters during the summer, explains Ignace Gruwier, Ysco's operations director – engineering. 'We are capable of producing up to a maximum of 22 million liters a month. The huge increase in sales when it gets warmer, has a major impact on our operations. It compels us for instance to provide a frozen storage capacity for 100,000 pallets. Our workforce grows by 50% during the high season. It also requires a great deal of flexibility from our personnel.'

Quality ice cream

As a Milcobel dairy cooperative business unit, Ysco is right at the source for milk, working with raw materials fresh daily, which contributes to quality. Ice cream production is a continuous process. After having a number of ingredients added, the mixture is homogenised and pasteurised, cooled down and stored in tanks at a temperature of five degrees. The mixture is cooled further down to minus five degrees and aerated. Moulding or extruding and passing through the blast-freezing tunnel is followed by the application of toppings, if any, such as chocolate, nuts and the like. Product packaging, transit pack-aging in cases and palletising complete the process. The finished products are stored in a deep-freeze high-bay warehouse. A 20% increase in storage capacity to 120,000 pallet locations is scheduled for next year.

Speed and reliability were two important selection criteria

Price/quality ratio

Ysco is a very satisfied user of these machines. 'With Lantech we deliberately did not choose the cheapest solution, but rather the best price/quality attitude and service,' Gruwier says. Immediately after commissioning the first machines, we knew we had made the best choice. For the past six years we have bought two to three machines a year. Meanwhile, the factory in

Langemark 8 and in Argentan 6 Lantech case erectors. Two brand-new machines were delivered to the Langemark plant at the end of December. Two more machines will be delivered in Argentan at the end of February. Both in Langemark and Argentan there are plans for a new line. If capacity goes up in the future, preference will again go to Lantech.
WWW.GILPACK.BE
WWW.YSCO.EU



Standardisation has numerous benefits in terms of maintenance, interchangeability, as well as ease of use

Standardized on Lantech

Since 2010, Ysco has been standardizing case erection on Lantech machines, leased by Gilpack. On the one hand because the existing case erectors were at the end of their lifespan. On the other hand, because of the features and quality of Lantech's machines. Gruwier: 'Speed and reliability were two important criteria. With the existing machines we could not reliably achieve the planned capacity. After exploring the market, we chose Lantech as our preferred supplier for case erectors.' Ysco has four versions of the Lantech Speedpack case erector in use. Speedpack 1, 2 and 3 are machines with asynchronous motors, with increasing speeds and options. Speedpack 4 is a fully servo-controlled machine with a capacity of up to 30 cycles per minute, depending of course on case sizes. For most lines, a Speedpack 3 is sufficient. Ysco also standardizes on right-hand machines.

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Ergonomics

Gruwier especially appreciates the ergonomics of Lantech's solutions. The automatic refilling of the glue systems, the set-up height of 600 mm and the exceptionally long blank magazines facilitate work. Ysco uses box erectors with two-meter-long blank magazines, sufficient for some 200 planos. Depending on the line, the cases are set up at a rate of 8, 10 to a maximum of 15 cases per minute. A quick calculation shows that even at the highest speed, the operator only has to free up time every 15 minutes to replenish the warehouse. Gruwier: 'With the long warehouses, one operator is sufficient to operate three machines. It also provides peace of mind at the machines.' **Ignace Gruwier:**

'Ergonomics, speed and reliability determine our choice of Lantech.'

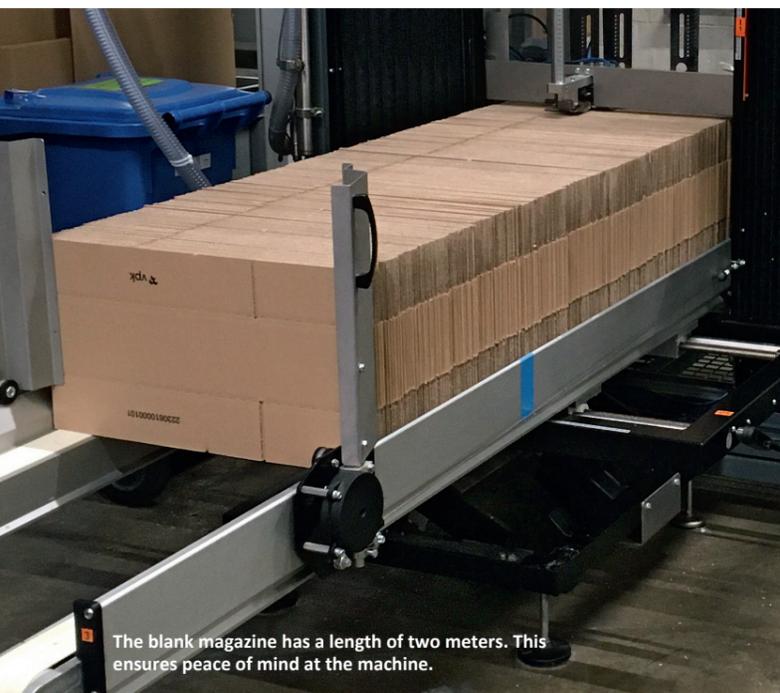


Ysco has 15 different box sizes in use. Smooth conversion is important.

Ice cream from Ysco

Belgians eat an average of eight liters of ice cream a year. If you or I eat an ice cream, the chances are very good that it comes from Ysco. After all, Ysco is the second largest private label producer of ice cream in Europe. The company is one of three business units of Belgium's largest milk cooperative Micobel. Ysco's two state-of-the-art factories in Langemark and Argentan, France, produce 180 million liters of ice cream per year. In the 1990s, Ysco experienced explosive growth. Now sales in local markets have more or less stabilized and growth comes mainly from exports. However, there is a clear shift from branded ice cream to private label ice cream and also exponential growth in Eastern Bloc countries,

such as Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Slovenia.... An increase in production to near 190 million liters is planned for next year. Production takes place on 26 lines: 16 in Langemark and 10 in Argentan. Quality, sustainability, innovation, automation and service are Ysco's core values. As a supplier to the largest retailers, the company has IFS and BRC certificates and a conclusive tracking and tracing system. This makes it possible, for example, to determine which cow in a farm the ice cream in a particular box of ice cream came from. With clock-like regularity, these and other quality parameters are checked by auditors from retailers. In addition to innovation and automation, service is also important. European customers are served within 24 to 48 hours.



The blank magazine has a length of two meters. This ensures peace of mind at the machine.

Even when converting to a different case size, Lantech is mindful of user convenience. Ysco processes up to 15 different cases per machine. The conversion is done by the operators. This requires a number of manual settings. For each case format, the operator has a parameter sheet, which clarifies which adjustments need to be made. Sometimes conversion is done several times a day. The adjustments take barely 10 to 15 minutes.

Customer Focus

Gruwier is very appreciative of Lantech's customer focus. 'For the alarm signals, we stick to our standard colors throughout the plant. It was no problem for Lantech to equip the machines with the desired alarm and signal lights. The same goes for the specifications of the Nordson gluing equipment, control screens, etc. Everything is done according to our specifications.' Gruwier insists on always having a Factory

Acceptance Test with Ysco boxes to be done in the factory at Lantech. Minor adjustments can then still be made in time. He is also very satisfied with Lantech's delivery reliability. 'They keep strictly to the promised delivery times. The delivery, transport and installation proceed smoothly on the agreed dates. So far, no major unexpected problems have arisen during the installation and commissioning of the machines, which caused delays. We have always been able to commission the machines on the planned dates.'

Ysco has its own technical department with 60 employees. They are responsible for the primary maintenance of the machines. For major mechanical or software modifications, Gilpack technicians are always available. Required spare parts are delivered quickly from the Gilpack warehouse in Kontich.