

**P&P Optica**

Could Your Inspection Methods Find This?

A large meat processor making a variety of processed products purchased a PPO Smart Imaging System (Waterfall configuration) to find and remove foreign materials from their product stream. The PPO system is part of this plant's multi-hurdle approach to inspection and acts as the final inspection point before incoming raw materials are sent into the plant for grinding, mixing, and stuffing.

Shortly after installation, the PPO system demonstrated its effectiveness by detecting and rejecting very difficult-to-see contaminants hidden within a batch of incoming raw materials.

The Story

After seeing the PPO system reject significantly more often than usual, the operations team stopped the line, tagged the whole shipment from this supplier and removed those combos from the production stream.

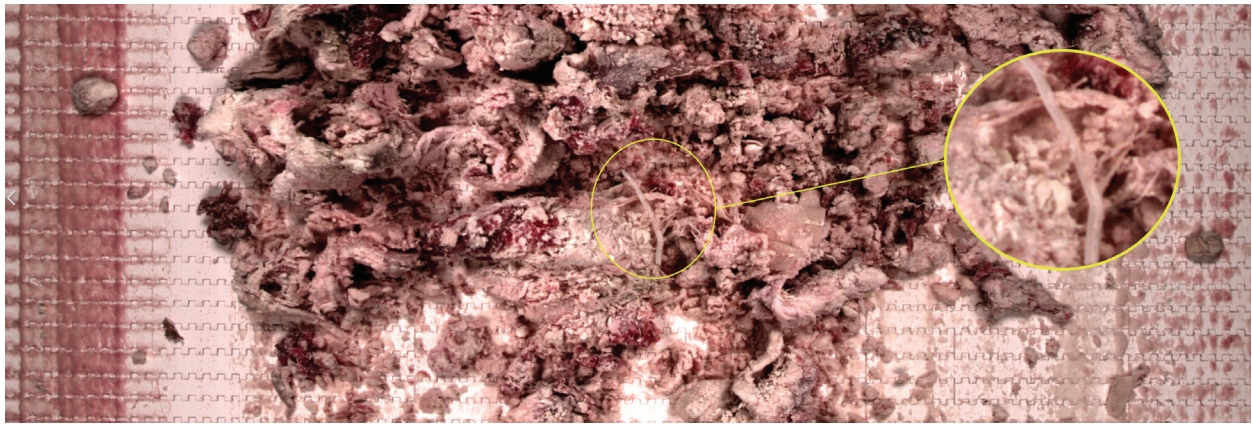
The team then checked PPO Insights, showing them the contaminants they were looking for: **pieces of opaque zip-ties**. Even after seeing the images on PPO Insights, the zip ties were very difficult for operators to find in the rejected product. The FSQA Manager told PPO "There is no way those zip ties could have been found any other way, at this point in our process".

At the end of the shift, the team re-ran the contaminated combos through the PPO system a second time. This re-inspection revealed two additional instances of zip tie contamination, confirming the system's accuracy and sensitivity.

The Outcome

By proactively identifying and removing the contaminated materials, the company avoided further processing 40,000 lbs of contaminated product, saving labor hours and avoiding significant waste and downtime.

Because the contaminants were found as they came into the plant, before the supplier's shipment was batched with other shipments, the processor could trace the contaminated materials back to a single supplier. That supplier was charged back for the full value of the shipment, and was suspended from shipping further products to this company.

Disaster Averted!**ZIP TIE FOUND****ZIP TIES FOUND**