



Merial Chooses the 4600 2d Image Scanner From Honeywell to Ensure Drug Traceability

Overview

Industry:

Healthcare

Application:

Verifying quality of Datamatrix codes

Product Solution:

Honeywell 4600 2D Image Scanner



Honeywell Takes Part in a World First: Traceability of Veterinary Drugs

Merial, the world's largest animal health company, is committed to improving the health, well-being and performance of a broad range of animal species. To achieve these goals, the company recently implemented a traceability solution using Datamatrix codes and the 4600 2D image scanners from Honeywell.

In accordance with a decision from the International Federation for Animal Health (IFAH), Merial sought to identify a unique, comprehensive traceability solution that met both the needs of the market and the requirements of regulatory agencies.

The Animal Health Market

Animal health is a particularly complex industry. In response to extremely diverse needs, Merial offers a broad range of constantly upgraded pharmaceutical products and vaccines for a dozen or more species.

Merial focuses its activities on research, development, production and marketing in relation to innovative veterinary drugs and vaccines.

The company provides services for the prevention and treatment of diseases affecting food-producing animals, domestic pets and wildlife.

End-to-end Traceability

Traceability of Merial drugs begins in the production lot and covers the whole chain from production of the drug or vaccine through wholesalers, veterinarians and breeders to the animal.

Datamatrix: Capacity and Compactness

Merial uses Datamatrix ECC200 codes with EAN 128 syntax in accordance with the relevant IFAH directive. The reason for this choice is simple: it conforms to both the reduced size of packaging and the large amount of traceability information required. The Datamatrix code is the smallest symbol capable of meeting these constraints.

It enables Merial to incorporate into its products all necessary traceability components, including identification code, lot number and expiration date.

The Datamatrix is amongst the most reliable codes in the industry. It uses information redundancy to ensure the readability of codes even if they become damaged. It also supports both thermal transfer and inkjet printing at a very low cost.

The 4600 2d Image Scanners: Reliable, Fast and Ergonomic

Ease of use, sensor quality, high reading speed and depth of field were determining factors in Merial's selection of the 4600 2D image scanners. Print Quality Assessment (PQA) functionality, incorporated into all 4600 2D image scanners, monitors and analyses printed code quality and makes any recommendations for improving the code reading process. This functionality was another key factor in Merial's decision.

Merial uses the 4600 2D image scanners from Honeywell to check the print quality and validity of Datamatrix codes on all drug packages at the production line output. Code readability is thus maintained throughout the line. Leuze Electronic, Business Solution Partner of Honeywell, worked closely with Merial to implement this solution. Merial's high degree of responsiveness made it possible to bring to market the first industrial lot of a veterinary product carrying traceability information in the form of a Datamatrix code compliant with the IFAH standard.

Jean-Claude Muller, Worldwide Support Manager for Merial's supply chain, was pleased with the result: "The use of the 4600 2D image scanners and Datamatrix codes in drug traceability is an essential technological advance in ensuring our industry's future".

In launching this new standard, Merial breaks ground with a major new technology for traceability of veterinary drugs and an instrumental development in enhancing safety and security within the industry.

Pharmaceutical companies currently considering adoption of the Datamatrix code for traceability have followed the project closely. Datamatrix is thus set to usher in a new age of information tracking.

