# MICROSCAN

## **Pharmaceutical Packaging:** Label Validation

FIGURE 1: MS-3 SCANNING LABELS

### BAR CODES ON PRODUCT PACKAGING

A pharmaceutical manufacturer decided to include lot number and expiration date in the product I.D. bar code printed on the packaging of their vitamin supplements.

As a result, they needed a bar code scanner to validate each label as it was applied to the product on the packaging line.

#### THE SYMBOL

**Code Type:** is a Code 128 (10 mil). **Marking Method:** Thermal transfer, black on white.



**Code 128** 

The facility used a thermal transfer printer to print the bar codes directly on the line. A print and apply machine applied the bar coded product label to the bottles.

#### THE APPLICATION

After a bottle is filled, it passes by the label applicator. The label applicator applies the bar coded product label to the bottle.

Mounted next to the applicator, an MS-3 reads the bar code containing the lot number, expiration date, manufacturer's i.d. number, the product's name and strength (vitamins, in this case). The scanner verifies that the bar code is readable and that the information contained in the bar code is accurate.

#### WHY THE MS-3

The MS-3 was selected because it offered the following features:

- High scan speed
- · Ease of integration
- · Validation software features

#### THE BOTTOM LINE:

In addition to providing the manufacturer with 100% product traceability, the verification system also provided accountability and assurance against recalls.

By pro-actively including lot number and expiration date, the manufacturer was already prepared to meet any additional FDA regulations that may result from the unit-dosage proposal.



#### **MS-3 LASER AT A GLANCE**

- Scans/second: 1,000
- Read range: 2 to 10" (50 to 250 mm)
- Light weight: 2-oz. (57 g)
- Test Button and Read Rate LEDs

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