REA JET

INDUSTRIAL CODING AND MARKING SOLUTIONS – MADE IN GERMANY

REA JET RPS
Non contact marking for tire and rubber
Coding and marking in the tire and rubber industry

Modern production and logistic operations in rubber processing create increased demands for the automated marking of products. Manufacturers and retailers are facing new challenges in terms of realizing the need for traceability and secure identification of semi finished or finished products. The integration of coding and marking systems into digital production processes, also known as industry 4.0, has to be ensured by modern IT interfaces.

Innovative marking solutions by REA JET cover the requirements of coding during every stage of production, from the preparation of the compound over manufacturing semi finished products up to the final product.

The advantages of the REA JET systems:

- Decrease of production costs by avoiding incorrect markings and therefore scrap reduction.
- Increase the level of automation at low maintenance efforts (large character ink jets, laser) or maintenance-free with high-resolution systems.
- High quality markings ensure improvement of product quality and production processes.
- The REA JET RPS system is based on the proven REA JET print head technology: high availability during low maintenance costs.
- Reduction of downtimes and costs thanks to modular design, which allows easy and fast replacement of system components in case of service.
- Encouraging new and innovative production processes, eg. Track & Trace by 2D codes.
- High flexibility due to a wide range of marking systems and ink products.
- Modern interfaces provide fast access to production control.
- Integrative IT and operating concept of all systems offers easy handling.
- REA JET RPS is optimized for use of specific inks in the rubber industry.

Alphanumeric marking on raw rubber tread

Marking on finished tires after vulcanization

The ink jets of the REA JET DOD product family have proven dependable for over 30 years and mark products reliably and with low maintenance costs in harsh environments. For the purpose of marking raw rubber and semi finished products, the REA JET RPS (Rubber Printing System) was developed in dialogue with the tire industry. Specific inks, which are created for the rubber industry, mark products with constant high quality and without leaving any residues in the forms after the vulcanization.

In addition, REA JET provides ink jet systems for high-resolution marking, for captive marking by laser and specific labeling solutions designed for the requirements of the tire industry.
The advantages of the special inks used in the REA JET RPS systems:

- As they are integral to the rubber itself, the prints do not leave ghost prints in the mold during the vulcanization process.
- The inks ensure a consistently legible print throughout different production processes.
- The prints on the finished tire become an integral part of the tire during production and cannot be wiped off.
- Additionally, REA JET offers inks that disappear during the vulcanization process – ideal for in-plant marking and identification.

The advantages of the water-based inks used in the REA JET RPS system:

- Reduced level of unwanted chemical compounds in the air - high protection of environment and industrial safety.
- Negligible VOC-content (<2%).
- Easy and safe handling and storage.
- Environmentally friendly.
Innovative marking solutions for the rubber and tire industry

Tire manufacturing process

- High resolution coding of the packed ingredients on the outside of the bags
- Color striping to identify specific rubber compounds
- Alpha-numeric product codes
- 2D codes for advanced tracking & tracing
- Apply process additives

Mixing

- Print batch- and lot number on rubber compound

Semi-finished products

Examples of application

1D & 2D codes on EVA bags
To achieve a quality-assured mixing process in the extruder, the bags are marked with the individual ingredients using 1D or 2D codes. The REA JET system automatically receives the recipe data from the master production computer and applies the according codes to the EVA bags. Scanning the bar- and datamatrix codes before the mixing process ensures that always the correct raw materials enter the mixture.

Alphanumeric marking, 2D code and barcode on EVA bags
Production code on rubber compound

For identification of each rubber compound, the raw felts are marked with a code prior to applying a separating agent. The REA JET specialized inks are fast drying and available in several colors for better legibility (e.g. yellow, red or orange).

Production code applied to rubber compound
Examples of application

Production code on steel and texture cord
For identification purposes, the components are marked with a production code. The composition of the REA JET inks ensure that the connection of the individual components in the tire is not impaired.

Marking of extruded rubber
The REA JET DOD inkjet systems replace indenting wheels and mark products contact-free and automated via data connection. This eliminates incorrect prints and lowers the reject rate. Furthermore, there are water-based inks available which support an environmentally friendly production.

Tracking & Tracing using 2D codes
To improve quality, the tracking of components throughout the whole production process is becoming more and more important. 2D codes are able to accomodate a much larger amount of data in a small space than plain text and can be applied at many stages of the production process. Both raw rubber and on vulcanized products.

High-resolution printing on non-vulcanized rubber
In order to create a high-quality marking (logos and graphics), stencils are still being used today. The cost-intensive change of stencils and the unflexible use are just two disadvantages. The REA JET high-resolution marking systems are able to print brand logos, 2D codes or other markings in high quality. By request, REA JET can also provide vulcanization-proof versions.
Dot marking
The REA JET spray mark technology systems are applicable in multiple ways in the tire and rubber industry. Some examples are the application of colored dots, high points or marks for quality identification.

Color line marking
The coding of components or finished products with colored lines is a commonly used method for type-identification. REA JET offers various alternative coding and marking technologies for automated line marking on raw material, pre-products or the finished tires.

Captive marking by laser
If a permanent marking of the product throughout its entire lifecycle is required, then laser marking is the first choice. By minimal material removing (engraving) a captive identification with text and graphics is achieved. A 2D code applied to the sidewall of a tire can be automatically read and can provide a history report for traceability purposes. REA JET Laser Systems can be characterized by long service life, low maintenance costs and a consumable-free operation.

Labeling in the rubber industry
REA JET label dispensers are designed to apply pre-printed labels onto the finished tire. With special adhesive labels an optimal bonding to the tire tread is ensured. By request, multicolored labels can be individually designed, printed and applied using a turn key print and apply solution from REA JET. To apply labels onto pallets, REA JET offers customized pallet labeling solutions from single source.