



## **Metal detectors keep the veg moving safely**

### **Comprehensive quality assurance at Express Potato Supply**

Schönberg, April 2013

Processing up to 9 tonnes of fresh veg for the retail and catering sectors every day, seven days a week, demands the highest level of hygiene and safety. Express Potato Supply of Weymouth has been doing just that for many years and has an enviable record of customer service to maintain. With a range of 25 individual products spanning 10 veg varieties, some needing hand cutting to meet demanding precision, there is always the risk of metal contamination, mainly from broken cutter blades but also deliveries that may contain pieces of metal. To eliminate the risk of product contamination with metal, Express Potato has replaced manual inspection of the processing equipment with automatic metal detectors from S+S Inspection.

Initially, managing director Nigel Lawrence planned to install a single detector through which all production would pass before bagging but this was changed to a metal detector at the end of each processing line to avoid wasted time with product having to wait at the detector. S+S Inspection advised that its GLS Genius+ metal detector head would deliver the best cost/performance ratio and was compact enough to be fitted into the existing conveyor system. In all, S+S metal detectors were to be fitted to four process lines but, as this involved the conveyor being removed by the fabricator, the lines were modified and the GLS detectors installed one at a time to minimise the impact on production. To meet the needs of production, the fabricator recommended by S+S completed each line within only 24 hours from removal to reinstallation. Training and installation and initial set-up of the new equipment were provided by S+S Inspection.

According to Nigel Lawrence, the project, managed by S+S, caused the minimum of lost production and has delivered increased productivity by eliminating the machine downtime necessary for the physical examination of the machinery. More importantly, the new metal detectors fully meet BRC requirements.



GLS metal detectors are easily integrated also under conditions of limited available space such as at Express Potato Supply. (Photo: S+S)

**S+S - an overview**

S+S Separation and Sorting Technology GmbH of Schönberg, Bavaria, manufactures machines and systems for the detection/separation of contaminants, for product inspection, and for the sorting of material flows. Product sales primarily focus on the food, plastics, chemical, pharmaceutical, wood, textile, and recycling industries. S+S is one of the world's leading suppliers with subsidiaries in Great Britain, France, Italy, China, Singapore, and in the USA, representative offices in India and Turkey, and more than 40 agencies all over the world. The S+S group presently has 350 employees, about 300 are working at the main factory in Schönberg. The consolidated turnover in 2012 amounted to approx. Euro 43 million.

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