

Almost €1m investment in production of medical PETG film

Blister packs – An acknowledged European leader in the production of rigid medical film for the past 20 years, Carolex has just invested nearly €1m to raise its production capacity of medical-grade PETG film.

Evelyne Gisselbrecht, DeviceMed

“This investment was made to meet three objectives,” says Olivier Brun, product manager for technical and medical film at Carolex:

- To pursue the company’s development strategy as a producer of rigid blister film for medical and pharmaceutical packaging,
- To facilitate the growth of our European customers specialising in cleanroom packaging,
- To strengthen our presence with manufacturers of medical and pharmaceutical devices who are opting to integrate packaging of their devices into their production lines.”

This greater capacity will give Carolex greater flexibility, making it more responsive and able to meet new demand or absorb peak orders. Although customers draw up annual forecasts, orders are placed increasingly at the last minute down the entire supply chain, which requires a rapid response upstream of this chain. “We want to reduce our average lead times to four weeks,” says Olivier Brun.

Thanks to the latest-generation equipment it now has at its disposal, Carolex is able to respond to the demand from certain customers for new thicknesses. Now, the company is able to supply thicknesses up to 1.5mm on rolls for the most stringent drop tests and packaging of heavy or complex parts, such as for orthopaedics or cardiology.

Lastly, this investment will enable Carolex to help its customers comply with stricter regulations, notably the ISO 13485:2016 standard. This new version of the standard puts the focus of requirements back on notions of biocompatibility, full traceability, and notification of changes for all new packaging approvals.

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