

FACTORY ACCEPTANCE TEST - (F.A.T.)

The factory acceptance test is a crucial part of the purchase cycle. This is a milestone that has tremendous value for both the machinery supplier and customer. A successful F.A.T. will allow for a vertical start up.

From the customer's perspective, it is time to hold the manufacturer accountable for deliverables that have been committed to by the supplier. The purchaser needs to see the machinery successfully performing the operations at the speed that was promised and the reliability needs to be demonstrated at the F.A.T.

At Propack, we have our own internal pre-F.A.T. testing to ensure the equipment meets requirements prior to having the customer involved. Once the speed and reliability are effectively demonstrated for customer approval, then we will conduct an even more extensive and detailed checklist review to ensure all performance specifications are met.

From the manufacturer's perspective it is time to look through the equipment for any items that may cause issue in the field. The cost and efficiency of completing any changes in the factory are paramount as the cost of fixing in the field may result in as much as ten times the cost of changes in the factory.

The more extensive F.A.T. checklist is broken down into three groups:

- Electrical assembly & wiring
- Mechanical assembly
- Functional testing

Electrical Assembly & Wiring

Electrical assembly and wiring compliance is a critical inspection as without compliance the equipment may not be wired for power at the customer's location.

The initial quotation and order confirmation is reviewed in detail ensuring all components utilized meet customer's expectations.

Mechanical Assembly

Inspection of machine finish and compliance to the fullest build quality and further inspection of the clean design as sanitation is of the utmost importance.

Examine machine elevation confirming that the product infeed heights for case carton infeed and discharge, ensuring correct system elevations.

Functional Testing

The machine should cycle at full rate for twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. This will allow visual inspection and temperature verification ensuring compliance within manufacturer's recommended temperature of servo, gear box, etc.

HMI Inspection

The HMI houses a tremendous amount of information to ensure a successful start up.

- Values should be populated in each recipe
- I.O monitoring is functioning if applicable
- Fault screens need to define a specific issue allowing troubleshooting to commence
- All languages should be confirmed to be functional on the HMI and values populated
- Full power cut to the machine while running full rate. The restart should be seamless completing the task prior to power failure.

Following guidelines set out in detailed performance criteria and F.A.T. checklist will not only facilitate a smooth installation, it should exceed customer expectations.