Crabtree

PLASMA TREATMENT

ENGINEERED PRODUCT SOLUTIONS





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System Overview

Designed to seamlessly integrate to a coating line, our plasma system enhances the surface energy of virgin metal sheets, improving the adhesion of UV coatings eliminating the need for energy-intensive thermal ovens.



Plasma Coating

As metal is non-porous, achieving strong adhesion with conventional coatings can be challenging, as there are no natural surface pores for bonding, traditionally achieved using energy intensive thermal ovens.

Plasma treatment overcomes this by activating the metal surface at a molecular level, modifying its surface energy and creating strong chemical bond between the substrate and the coating (increasing "wettability"). This ensures uniform coverage, superior adhesion, and enhanced durability, making plasma coating an efficient and eco-friendly alternative for metal packaging applications.



Normal UV Coating on an untreated surface

New UV Coating after plasma treatment

Onsite Testing

Working in a cross-partnership collaboration with Brasilata Labs, Plasmatreat and Actega, the plasma treatment system has been rigorously tested over a 3 year period in a full production environment, yielding very positive results.

Crabtree, as well as supplying the inline coater and feeder, engineered the sheet handling system to perfectly suit the plasma head, providing optimum sheet transfer and stability.



Unit Description

To be placed between the coating unit and feeder, we offer the plasma unit as a retrofit package to an existing setup, or integrated as part of a brand new coating line.

🔷 Plasma Head

With 16 plasma jets providing full sheet coverage

🔷 System Control

Independent control system with settable control speeds

🔷 Unit Size

2.5m long x 1.7m wide

975mm sheet height (adjusted to suit customer requirements)

Benefits

Full UV Coating

Delivers full UV coating for virgin metal sheets without the need for energyconsuming oven curing.

Environmental Benefits

Potentially lowers VOC emissions by up to 95%, promoting a cleaner production process. Reduction in carbon emissions by up to 40%.

Precision Sheet Handling

Fully belted vacuum conveyor system ensures even plasma coating. Sensitive crash bar stops the conveyor to prevent damage to the plasma nozzles.

Flexible Integration

Standalone operation or can be easily integrated into an existing production line. Compared to traditional oven curing it provides significant factory space saving benefits.

Unit Description

🔷 Vacuum Conveyor

Precise sheet vacuum control keeping the sheet within +/-0.5mm flatness. Magnet section in the plasma nozzle area for added sensitivity

Crash Bar

Crash bar stops the conveyor to protect the Plasma nozzles from damaged sheets

Full End-to End Solution

As an OEM with over 60 years of developing and manufacturing metaldecorating and coating machines, Crabtree can supply a plasma system as part of a fully integrated UV freestanding Coating line, from feeding to stacking.

The system would be complimented with our new FastreadyPro coater, which features all of our latest automation features.



Latest Fastready Pro Features

Crabtree are committed to continual product development, our latest Fastready Pro coater features high levels of automation to streamline your production processes.



New Operator Control

The machine control is via the mainline console on the side of the coater, all sheet control settings can be saved and loaded as recipes without any manual input, providing significant setup time savings.



Motorised Coating Head

Our ergonomic coating head is available as precision 3-roll and Anilox, both options are fully motorised for full control.

A precise coating film weight measurement system is available on request.



Full CNC Feeder

The new independent CNC feeder is equipped with laser Automatic Pile Centralising, ensuring quick changeovers and guaranteed centralised sheet feeding.

We also offer these features on our Double Box Feeder.

Full UV Coating Line

Servo Infeed

The infeed features fully independent CNC servo axis on each element, as well as a fully belted sheet transfer surface to ensure no sheet scratching on softer materials (such as Aluminium and TFS). With proven high speed register accuracy and reliability, the mechanical simplicity of the system also ensures very low maintenance.



Optimised Coating Unit

In addition to our proven primary scraper system, for tough coatings (with high solid content) we offer an effective secondary solvent scraper.

The independently motorised delivery unit has been optimised for quick changeovers and operator friendliness.



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Fastready Pro Coating Line: Technical Data		
Sheet size	Maximum	1200 x 1000mm
	Minimum	710 x 510mm
	Thickness	0.13 - 0.5mm
Application roller ø	Spot coating	329mm
	Plain coating (Max)	339mm
	Plain coating (Min)	319mm
Application roller length		1225mm
Compression roller length		1225mm
Varnish tank capacity		80ltrs
Weight of feeder pile (max)		5000Kg
Standard electric supply		400V/ 3 Phase/ 50Hz
Compressed air		6bar/80psi
Mechanical speed (max)		7200SPH*

*Dependent on factory conditions and ingoing material quality



Crabtree are dedicated to continuous improvement and therefore reserve the right to modify design features and technical specifications without notice

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