

# Ishida weighers support Picola's quality reputation



## Case Study / Picola Foods

Speed, accuracy, reliability and excellent service support are the major benefits of two Ishida CHW-214 entry-level multihead weighers installed at South African quality snacks specialist Picola Foods.

## Facts and figures



Picola Foods has invested in two Ishida entry-level multihead weighers to reduce giveaway and increase speed and reliability for its popcorn range



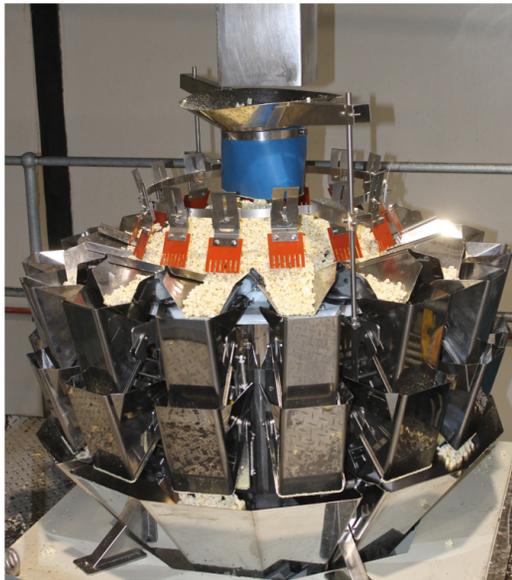
The accuracy of the CHW's has reduced product giveaway by 50% compared with the previously installed weighers



Ishida supplied the weighers with a ring gate to help control the product flow to the hoppers, thus allowing the customer to maximise speeds without compromising on accuracy



According to Picola Foods, the CHW weighers have performed excellently from the outset and the level of support offered by Ishida has been exemplary



The two 14-head weighers with 2 litre size hoppers are handling Picola Foods' range of Homestyle savoury and sweet popcorn, including Cheese & Chives, White Cheddar, Salt & Vinegar and Sweet & Salty, in packs of 45g at around 60 packs per minute, well within the weighers' top speed of 90ppm.

The CHW multihead weigher range has been specifically designed to enable companies to harness the benefits of automation, increasing efficiency and throughput in the packing of a wide range of dry products such as snacks, confectionery, cereals, biscuits and pasta. It therefore proved a welcome addition to Picola Foods' packing lines.

"Prior to choosing the CHW, we were using another entry-level weigher, but this was not very accurate or reliable and the aftersales service was poor," explained Cobus Landman, the company's General Manager. "By contrast, the Ishida weighers have performed excellently from the outset and the level of support offered by Ishida South Africa has been exemplary."

The popcorn is distributed evenly from the dispersion table at the top of the weigher to the fourteen weigh hoppers, each of which contains its own highly accurate load cell for weighing the individual amounts. Software then calculates which combination of hoppers comes closest to the required target weight and the product held in the selected weigh hoppers is then discharged into the packaging machine underneath.

A particular benefit of the Ishida weigher is that the ring gate above the radial feeders, which helps to control the product flow, is supplied as standard, whereby on many other entry-level models it is supplied as an optional extra. The ring gate is especially important for the handling of popcorn, as Production Manager Riaan Brits explains.

"The shape of our popcorn means it can roll about quite quickly. This can lead to overfill in the weigh hoppers, which slows down the weighing process and produces inaccurate, overweight packs. So, thanks to the ring gate, we can maximise packing speeds without compromising on accuracy."

The accuracy of the Ishida CHW produces bag weights within 2g of the target weight, which has halved the amount of product giveaway compared with the previous weighers.

The CHW weighers are operated by intuitive LCD displays for fast setup and quick product changeovers and to simplify operation Picola Foods also reports that the Ishida machines are easy to clean and maintain.

"We take pride in the quality of our products and the packaging is an important part of this," concluded Cobus Landman. "Thanks to the Ishida weighers, we are able to deliver a better consumer experience."



## The customer

Established in 1997 and based in Brits, North-West Province, Picola Foods is a family-owned operation and the country's first and only manufacturer of whole kernel maize snacks (Corn Nibs). Through a special steam cooking process, finest sun-ripened maize is transformed into a high-quality snack food with a perfect crunchy texture in a variety of delicious flavours.

Picola Foods is a major producer of both branded and own-label snack foods in Southern Africa, focusing on niche products with a "better for you" label. The company supplies to three countries in Africa and employs around 100 people.



## The overview

<p>Speed, accuracy, reliability and excellent service support are the major benefits of the two installed multihead weighers</p>	<p>The two 14-head weighers with two litre hoppers are handling packs of 45g at around 60 packs per minute</p>	<p>The weighers have been specifically designed to enable companies to harness the benefits of automation, increasing efficiency and throughput</p>	<p>The accuracy of the Ishida CHW's produces bag weights within 2g of the target weight, which has halved the amount of product giveaway</p>
<p>Product is distributed evenly from the dispersion table at the top of the weigher to the fourteen weigh hoppers</p>	<p>A benefit of the weighers is the ring gate above the radial feeders, which helps to control the product flow</p>	<p>Thanks to the ring gate, we can maximise packing speeds without compromising on accuracy</p>	<p>Software calculates which combination of hoppers comes closest to the required target weight before discharging into the packing machine</p>
<p>The weighers have performed excellently from the outset and the level of support has been exemplary</p>	<p>The CHW weighers are operated by using intuitive LCD displays, for fast setup and quick changeovers</p>	<p>Picola Foods also reports that the Ishida machines are easy to clean and maintain</p>	<p>Thanks to the Ishida weighers we are able to deliver a better consumer experience</p>

## Speak to an Ishida expert

Every business has its own challenges; ours is to help you overcome yours. Working smarter, faster, together, we can help you achieve higher standards and get your products retail ready quicker.

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