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Reject Tracking or Product Tracking, which is better?

Many vision inspection companies offer reject tracking as an added feature; however, it should not be confused with complete product tracking. Complete product tracking provides an enhanced level of line security by ensuring that the integrity of the line is never compromised. For example, in the case of using reject tracking, if a product is added to or removed from a line between the inspection station and the ejection station, one of two events would occur:

- a) the extra, “uninspected” product would be “ignored” and not ejected from the line (line integrity would be compromised)
- b) the extra, “uninspected” product would disrupt the synchronization between the inspection and ejection stations, which would result in a shift in the shift register. A change in the shift register would throw off product counting so that rejected product may not be rejected and “good” product could be rejected.

The Optel Vision complete product tracking option tracks each and every product, whether it is “good” or “bad”, down the line. Therefore, if a product were to be added or removed from a line between the inspection and ejection stations, line integrity would not be compromised since all products are counted and tracked. In addition, if a product were to be added to or removed from the line, the Optel Vision system would signal the line operator that such an event has occurred.

Complete product tracking does require the installation of an encoder. Therefore, there is an additional cost associated with this form of tracking, but the cost is certainly worth the investment considering that line integrity will always be maintained, and hence, the likelihood of product recall due to incorrect packaging (ie., misprinted information) is highly unlikely.