



Manual Font Alteration in Vial Coding Applications

By Adam Rosenthal

Vial coding in pharmaceutical manufacturing provides several essential benefits. Some of these benefits include:

- **Traceability:** Vial coding enables pharmaceutical companies to track and trace each vial throughout the manufacturing process and distribution chain.
- **Quality Control:** By assigning unique codes to each vial, manufacturers can implement quality control measures more effectively.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Vial coding helps pharmaceutical companies comply with regulatory requirements.
- **Anti-Counterfeiting Measures:** Vial coding plays a crucial role in combating counterfeit drugs.
- **Inventory Management:** Vial coding facilitates efficient inventory management by providing real-time visibility into stock levels and expiration dates.
- **Enhanced Patient Safety:** Accurate vial coding helps to prevent medication errors and ensures that patients receive the correct dosage and formulation of their prescribed medication.

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ALPHANUMERIC HUMAN-READABLE
AND/OR 2D DATA MATRIX CODE

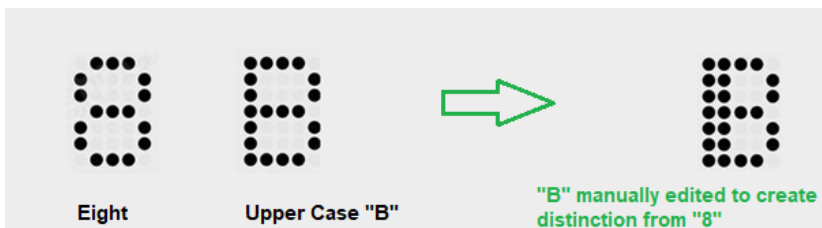
Ink jets (with visible or UV inks) or laser printers can be used to print alphanumeric human-readable and/or 2D Data Matrix codes, on the cap, aluminum overseal, or wall of vials. These codes can range from a single lot code/expiration date to a serialized code downloaded from the customer data system.

INSPECTION AND AVOIDING FALSE REJECTIONS

A critical step in vial coding is when digital vision systems are used to inspect, re-acquire, and verify each code for readability and accuracy. Improperly coded vials are then automatically tracked and rejected.

False rejections during this inspection process are obviously undesirable. However, false rejections can happen when different characters have too similar a resemblance to one another. The types of characters that could be misidentified in this scenario are an "O" being mistaken for a "0," or an "8" being falsely identified as a "B." Of course, the reverse of these mistakes can also happen.

This situation can be avoided when the user of the vial coding system manually edits the font of the printer's dot matrix pattern for the aforementioned characters, making them more distinct -

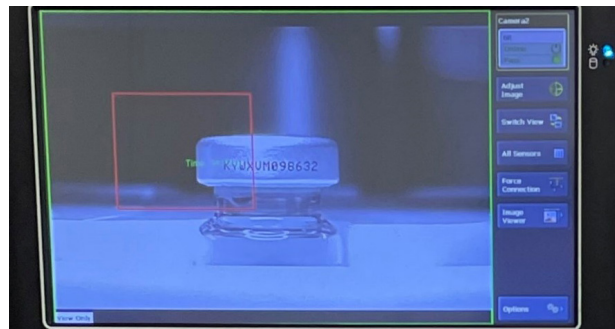
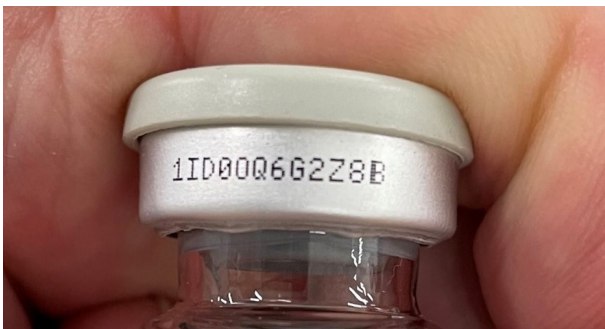


for example, adding more definition to the vertical stroke of an uppercase "B" (see image).

By manually altering the printer's font strokes to create greater distinction, the likelihood of false rejects upon inspection is significantly reduced.

FOR QUESTIONS

For more information about vial coding and verification, please contact WLS at WLS@ProMachBuilt.com.



ABOUT WLS

Weiler Labeling Systems is an industry-leading designer and manufacturer of high-speed rotary and in-line trunnion labeling machines and serialization and coding solutions for the pharmaceutical and medical packaging markets. With nearly three decades of experience in providing labeling, coding, inspection, and precision-manufactured systems, WLS is at the forefront of delivering customized solutions backed by a culture of unwavering customer care. As part of the ProMach Pharma business line, WLS helps our packaging customers protect and grow the reputation and trust of their consumers. ProMach is performance, and the proof is in every package.