

Packaging Technologist

November 2019

Heckington, Sleaford

At Humdinger-Foods we take nuts, seeds, fruit and pulses and turn them into delicious snacks for both own label and branded ranges. Over the years we have developed a strong and expanding portfolio of products, built on a reputation for quality and product innovation.

We are currently seeking a full time Packaging Technologist, to be based at our Innovation Centre at our Heckington site (Sleaford).

Working as part of Commercial team, this role is responsible for managing the physical and graphical development, specification and assessment of all packaging components. This will include the identification of new packaging materials, formats, technologies, processes and suppliers that can be used to achieve the agreed business strategy and priorities.

In addition, the Packaging Technologist will be expected to meet annual cost reduction targets and ensure any packaging performance issues are handled through to resolution in a timely and efficient manner. A thorough knowledge of all relevant packaging legislation and environmental obligations is essential, ensuring that the packaging components are both fit-for-purpose and cost effective.

This Packaging Technologist vacancy is full time, working Monday – Friday.

The main duties of the Packaging Technologist may include but are not limited to:

General

- To agree, prioritise and manage the delivery of all packaging actively on a daily basis, providing consistent status and KPI updates on a monthly basis.
- Manage projects, track progress against milestones, managing and mitigating risks as appropriate.

Packaging Development – New Products

- Scope, develop and deliver packaging solutions for new product developments. Identify and develop new packaging formats, materials and technologies to deliver competitive advantage and meet consumer needs.
- To ensure packaging developments are fit for purpose, commercially acceptable, meeting legislation, customer, consumer, supply chain and environmental needs within agreed timescales.
- Provide advice and technical support to the business during the evolution of packaging design.
- Test all packaging components to ensure they are fit-for-purpose.
- Attend all production line trials, ensuring that all such assessments are conducted in a robust and repeatable manner.
- Develop thorough component and packing specifications for use by the business, ensuring that these are agreed by the relevant suppliers and produced in a timely manner.

Packaging Development – Product Maintenance

- Deliver packaging solutions in response to continuity of supply, quality and legislative issues associated with the existing range of products.

Continuous Improvement

- Demonstrate a continuous improvement mentality and an operational excellence ethic. Continually review and improve internal processes, challenging existing ways of working and propose more efficient methodology.
- To work with current and new packaging suppliers to maintain and improve quality standards and minimise costs.

Cost Reduction Programme

- Develop and manage the packaging cost reduction programme, demonstrating an active pipeline and achievements to date each month.

Packaging Samples, Origination & Print Quality

- Arrange and provide packaging samples as required.
- Maintain a library of artwork cutter guides for all printed components.
- Manage the technical assessment and approval of all packaging origination, working with the other signatories and ensuring this activity is conducted against agreed timelines.
- Attend relevant, critical, initial print runs to approve and agree ongoing standards.

Innovation

- Develop relationships with key stakeholders to align and agree packaging strategy.
- Ensure that all new packaging trends and technologies are monitored, maintaining awareness of competitor and other category packaging activity, advising key stakeholders as appropriate.

Troubleshooting

- Acknowledgement and responsive reaction to all reported packaging concerns and issues. Conduct thorough evaluation of the problems, involving all relevant stakeholders, agreeing an action plan to resolve the issues in a satisfactory and timely manner.

Environmental

- Maintain accurate and up to date environmental information on all packaging components.
- Provide environmental data to customers and third-party organisations as required.

Supplier Assessment & Approval

- Ensure that all existing and potential suppliers are visited and formally assessed against agreed standards, advising any concerns to all relevant stakeholders and developing an agreed corrective action plan where appropriate.

Commercial Acumen

- Understand which attributes of products and packs are important for customers and consumers.
- Understand the business, procurement, operational and commercial strategies and priorities.
- Deliver packaging projects that maintain and optimise these attributes within agreed commercial constraints.

Ideally, the successful Packaging Technologist will have the following qualifications, skills and experience:

Qualifications/ Training

- Bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in packaging/technical/design related discipline.
- Candidates without a packaging degree should possess, or be working towards, an IOM3 Certificate or Diploma in Packaging Qualification.
- Membership of Institute of Packaging (The Packaging Society IOM3).

Experience

- Minimum of 5 years' experience in a packaging role.
- Minimum of 2 years' experience in a FMCG/Food business.

Skills

- Should be a strong team player, with excellent technical, IT and communication skills.
- Highly developed technical and commercial awareness knowledge (materials, formats and processes).
- Knowledge and understanding of print processes, colour management technologies and the packaging origination process.
- Excellent competency level in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, PowerPoint).

- Excellent verbal and written communication and presentation skills.
- Self-Starter with well-developed organisational/planning skills (project and time management) and strong influencing skills.
- Highly developed problem-solving skills.
- Strong analytical skills.
- A tenacious attention to detail.
- Ability to work as part of a team, contributing positive and progressive ideas.
- A passion and enthusiasm for packaging.
- Full driving license required.
- Proficient in English language.

Desirable

- Proven experience in packaging innovation and technology sourcing.
- Engineering knowledge, especially related to packaging machinery.
- Experience of major change projects, such as the introduction of new packaging formats and/or new production lines.

Benefits of working at Humdinger

By definition, Humdinger means *'a remarkable or outstanding person or thing of its kind'*; we are proud to be a unique business who engages and empowers all of our employees to be the best that they can be. We are committed to supporting your ongoing professional development, to help you thrive within our business.

We are also proud to offer:

- Company paid Health Care Insurance Scheme, including: optical and dental cover, 24/7 virtual GP assistance; counselling and helpline service; discounts at various highstreets stores and much more
- Generous company pension scheme and holiday entitlement
- Regular staff involvement events
- Continuous support to local charities
- Company Value/ Employee of the month awards
- Awards for long service
- Free car parking on site

Humdinger is also proud to be a part of the Zertus UK & Ireland family.

Interested in our Packaging Technologist role?

If this Packaging Technologist position sounds like the role for you, then please apply now with your CV and covering letter to hrdepartment@humdinger-foods.co.uk.