Claims

1. A method for wrapping a product for shipment, the method comprising the following steps:

placing a product on a base layer;

extending a cover layer lengthwise on top of the product;

securing the cover layer to the base layer so that the product is secured to the base layer by the cover layer;

cutting the base layer and the cover layer after the securing step; and

folding lateral portions of the base layer around the product widthwise and affixing the lateral portions of the base layer together after the securing step.

2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the cutting step includes cutting both the base layer and the cover layer in the same cutting action.

3. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, wherein the cutting step includes cutting the base layer and the cover layer at a location upstream of the product.

4. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, wherein the securing step includes applying an adhesive to the base layer upstream of the product, and the cutting step includes cutting the base layer and the cover layer along a cut line, the cut line being disposed on the base layer with adhesive upstream and downstream of the cut line so that portions of the base layer and the cover layer are secured together on opposite sides of the cut line.

5. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, further comprising cutting the base layer and the cover layer at the same time the cover layer is secured to the base layer.

6. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, comprising the step of providing the base layer from a continuous sheet stock material and providing the cover layer from a continuous sheet stock material.

7. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, wherein the securing step includes applying an adhesive to the base layer and then pressing the cover layer against the adhesive on the base layer.

8. The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the applying step includes identifying an upstream end of the product and applying the adhesive to the base layer at a location upstream of the product.

9. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, wherein the cutting step includes cutting the base layer and the cover layer upstream of the product.

10. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, further comprising detecting an upstream end of the product on the base layer.

11. The method as claimed in claim 10 or any preceding claim, wherein the detecting step includes detecting a length dimension of the product.

12. The method as claimed in claim 1 or any preceding claim, repeated for a sequence of products having at least one varying dimension.

13. A packaging system for wrapping a product for shipment, comprising:

a product delivery assembly configured to place a product on a base layer;

a sensor for detecting an upstream end of the product on the base layer;

an adhesive applicator configured to deposit an adhesive to the base layer at a location upstream of the product based on a signal from the sensor;

a stock material feed assembly configured to apply a cover layer on top of the product and the base layer; and

pressing element configured to press the cover layer to the base layer so that the adhesive secures the cover layer to the base layer in such a manner that the product is secured to the base layer by the cover layer.

14. The packaging system as claimed in claim 13, comprising a supply of sheet stock material for the base layer and the cover layer.

15. The packaging system as claimed in claim 13 or claim 14, comprising a cutting assembly configured to cut across a width dimension of the base layer and the cover layer.

16. The packaging system as claimed in claim 13 or any of claim 14 or claim 15, comprising a folding assembly downstream of the pressing element configured to fold lateral portions of the base layer widthwise around the product and the cover layer.

17. The packaging system as claimed in claim 16, comprising an adhesive applicator positioned to apply adhesive to the base layer to secure the folded lateral portions together.

18. The packaging system as claimed in claim 16, comprising a conveyor for advancing the base layer and the product placed on the base layer in a downstream direction past the pressing element.

19. A method for wrapping a product comprising:

supplying sheet stock material for a base layer and for a cover layer;

advancing the base layer and the cover layer in a downstream direction;

placing a product on the base layer;

extending a cover layer lengthwise over the product and the base layer;

securing the cover layer to the base layer upstream and downstream of the product so that the product is secured to the base layer by the cover layer;

cutting the cover layer and the base layer to separate the cover layer secured to the base layer from the supply;

transversely folding the base layer widthwise over the cover layer and the product;

securing the transversely folded base layer in place over the cover layer and the product.