What is claimed is:

1. An automated visual inspection system, comprising:

a profile view imager having an optical axis that passes through an inspection object that is at least partially translucent, the inspection object being positioned at a first distance from the profile view imager;

a proximal polarizing film axially aligned with the optical axis, positioned at a second distance from the profile view imager, and oriented perpendicular to the optical axis, the second distance being less than the first distance;

a liquid crystal device axially aligned with the optical axis, positioned at a third distance from the profile view imager, and oriented parallel to the proximal polarizing film, the third distance being greater than the second distance and less than the first distance;

a distal polarizing film axially aligned with the optical axis, positioned at a fourth distance from the profile view imager, and oriented parallel to the proximal polarizing film and the liquid crystal device, the fourth distance being greater than the first distance; and

a light source oriented to emit illumination toward the distal polarizing film.

2. The system as in claim 1, wherein the inspection object is a container.

3. The system as in claim 2, wherein the container is selected from a group including: a vial, a syringe, or a cartridge.

4. The system as in either of claims 1-3, further comprising:

a ring light that is coaxially aligned with a central axis of the container, below the container, and oriented to emit light toward a bottom of the container.

5. The system as in any one of claims 1-4, further comprising:

a bottom imager coaxially aligned with the central axis and oriented to view the bottom of the container.

6. The system as in any one of claims 1-5, further comprising:

at least one of: a container rotation mechanism, or one or more additional profile view imagers oriented parallel with a respective optical axis to view at least a portion of a respective profile of an inspection object.

7. The system as in claim 6, wherein the one or more additional profile view imagers consist of four profile view imagers.

8. A method for imaging an inspection object that is at least partially translucent, the method comprising:

emitting illumination from a light source;

polarizing the illumination emitted from the light source using a distal polarizing film;

passing the polarized illumination through at least a portion the inspection object, then through a liquid crystal device, and then through a proximal polarizing film; and

capturing one or more images of the inspection object with a profile view imager, the profile view imager having an optical axis that intersects a side wall of the inspection object.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the inspection object is a container.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the container is selected from a group including: a vial, a syringe, or a cartridge.

11. The method of any one of claims 7-10, further comprising:

analyzing, by one or more processors, the one or more images of the container to detect at least one defect associated with the container and/or contents of the container.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the at least one defect includes a particle or fiber within the container.