

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

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The present invention is directed to an automated apparatus for consolidating serial product flow wherein the product flow includes random variations in the flow.

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The present invention provides a consolidation buffer for receiving the serial products from the production line, and then consolidating random variations in the product flow. The automated robotic handling means then selects a predetermined number and arrangement of product units and transports that number and arrangement to a subsequent packaging station for packaging, sterilization, and final shipment.

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