ABSTRACT

AUTOMATED CONVEYING, CLEANING, STACKING AND STORING OF EATING UTENSILS IN FOOD AND BEVERAGE OUTLETS

An automated conveying, cleaning, stacking and storing system used in one or more food and beverage ("F & B") outlets, wherein used eating utensils are collected and kept in used eating utensil containers which are uploaded and conveyed to be cleaned, sterilized, stacked and stored in sterile condition and dispensed for use. The system consists of at least these modules:-

an used eating utensil conveyor module (50) with a plurality of used eating utensil containers to transport used eating utensils from one or more collection points (10) to a sorting module;

a sorting module to separate the different types of used eating utensils for processing in the cleaning module,

a cleaning module which cleans, dries and sterilizes the used eating utensils;

a clean eating utensil conveyor module (52) using a plurality of clean eating utensil containers to transport the cleaned eating utensils to be stored in sterile conditions;

a storing and racking system having a plurality of storage points (40) wherein the cleaned eating utensils are stored in racking systems (42) before these are conveyed by the clean eating utensils conveyor module (52) to each F & B outlet; and

a computerized control system which manages and monitors the entire operations of these modules

The eating utensils once uploaded into the conveying, cleaning, stacking and storing modules are never handled by humans until the cleaned eating utensils are retrieved from the clean eating utensil container at the F & B outlet for use.

Fig. 1