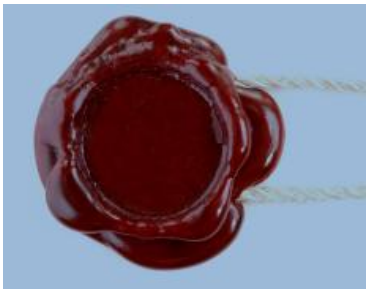
Anti-counterfeiting and anti-piracy technology guide

https://euipo.europa.eu/anti-counterfeiting-and-anti-piracy-technology-guide

Seals

A seal is any device that hermetically closes a package to protect the content from tampering. Seals can be made of plastic or metal and can be as simple and cost-effective as a screwcap on a bottle. They are usually easy to install and remove, but the level of security they offer depends to a great extent on the experience and ability of the person inspecting them.



Used for
- Anti-tampering / Anti-alteration

Suitable for
- Small products
- Medium-sized products
- Large products

Goes on
- Product
- Packaging

Can be used for
- Physical products

Visibility
- Visible

Reading device needed
- No

Connection to server
- No

Description

The general properties of a seal are:

- identity – every seal has a unique identifier;
- non-duplicability – seals are very difficult to reproduce;
- reliability – they provide a high level of security.

Although there are various different types of mechanical seals, they all share the following characteristics:

- their integrity is established through visual inspection;
- they reassure the user as to the security of a product by providing visual evidence of any tampering;
- they do not record information about the time or place of any tampering;
- they are unable to check their own integrity, unlike electronic seals.

Uses

Seals are highly versatile and can be used on a vast range of different packages in a variety of sectors. They are even used in transport to secure freight containers.

Implementation

As seals are generally applied to the packaging rather than the product itself, the changes that need to be introduced in order to implement this technology will affect the wrapping and packaging stage – not the production process.

Cost

While it is difficult to give a general idea of the costs associated with mechanical seals because of their diversity and versatility, it can be said that they are much lower than the costs associated with electronic seals.

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