

Working in Partnership with...

Perrigo, the UK's leading supplier of own label OTC medicines, nutritional supplements and herbals, has been buying tooling from I Holland for many years. More recently I Holland has become Perrigo's sole supplier of tablet compression tooling and the two companies are now working together on new development projects as partner organisations.

When selecting their partner, key drivers for Perrigo were short lead times (fast, guaranteed delivery within 3 weeks), price competitiveness, and quality. These factors have formed the basis for a successful partnership ever since. Perrigo is now also enjoying the benefits of broader I Holland services such as Research & Development and Tablet Design.

Over the last 6 months I Holland has been working with Perrigo to solve production issues with one of its more aggressive products. The product, a licensed slimming aid, was causing severe compression problems and excessive wear on its existing tooling. The tooling for this product was supplied by a competitor and only produced 3.2 million tablets before tablet definition was lost due to excessive wear of the punch tip face. However, after analysis and consultation with I Holland's Research & Development department Perrigo agreed to trial Holland PharmaGrade-Premium punches and dies and production capacity has already doubled to 6 million tablets with the tooling still in production. They are no longer experiencing edge wear or crowning on the tablets, nor any loss of tablet definition. With the competitor's tooling this was occurring mid-batch which was very costly to the production run. Perrigo will now continue to use I Holland's Premium steel for production of this product.

Perrigo's Manufacturing Manager Paul Hughes states that the key benefits of switching to I Holland's premium steel tooling are:

- Increased tooling life
- Less scrap / re-work of batches due to wear
- Time and cost reduction - getting things right first time
- Hands on technical guidance and support

For the future, Perrigo intend to continue to fully utilise I Holland's expertise and technical support to solve production problems. An example of this is the trials planned on a highly oxidising material. Further wear resistance trials will also take place and I Holland is also advising on other treatments that will extend tooling life for shaped tooling and the use of alternative steels from the Holland PharmaGrade range. Perrigo has also already enjoyed the benefits of I Holland's tablet design service, where we have consulted on a change of breakline design to avoid fill problems. For I Holland's Research & Development Department, working in close partnership with Perrigo has been invaluable in terms of the feedback obtained from the trialling of development treatments in the PharmaCote range. We would like to thank Perrigo for allowing open access to their production facility and for the excellent feedback provided.