INLAND PACKAGING

Total Cost of Ownership Guide

Inland
We power great packaging
www.inlandpackaging.com

Why unit price isn't the whole picture

When supply chain and procurement teams evaluate label supplier quotes, the key figure is "unit price." That's the easiest number to compare and negotiate.

But unit price only tells you what the label costs to buy, not what it costs to run.

The real cost shows up on your line. It's the downtime waiting on a jam, the scrap pulled off a run, or the reprint ordered because a color drifted or a die didn't track. None of that shows up on a quote, but all of it shows up on a P&L.

For categories like pet food and pet care products, where labels tend to be more complex, that hidden cost compounds faster than it does in simpler categories. More SKUs mean more changeovers, and every changeover is a chance for a line stoppage if the label doesn't run clean.

The lowest unit price matters less when the label becomes the reason production stops. Better line speed can close this gap.

> **Up to 42% faster on the labeling line.**
>
> Multiply that improvement across a full production shift and every changeover your SKU count requires, and the impact adds up fast.

What the Data Shows

Where customers have shared data with us, Inland's pressure-sensitive labels run approximately 28–42% faster on the labeling line compared to competitors' labels. This performance range is based on data collected across our production portfolio, using our customers' own equipment.

That increase in line speed adds up quickly across a full production shift and multiple SKUs. Faster, more consistent runs can mean fewer stoppages, less scrap, and lower rerun rates.

Labels may be a small part of your overall spend, but their performance on the line can have an outsized impact on costs. Drift, rework, and reprint costs add up, while consistent, faster-running labels help protect your bottom line.

Consistency by Design

Speed only matters if the output is consistent. Without color consistency, you're just producing scrap faster. That's where color management comes in.

Inland supports rigorous color management through a combination of G7 and GMI certification standards across our facility network.

In practice, that means your tenth order matches your first.

Line speed increases productivity, while color consistency reduces the risk of costly quality issues. Together, they shape the true total cost of ownership.

SKU Complexity in the Pet Industry

Pet food and pet care brands carry more label complexity than most categories on the shelf.

- AAFCO compliance standards lead to constant panel revisions.
- Breed, species, and life-stage variations multiply SKU count, providing more opportunities for a label to run incorrectly.
- Premium embellishments add another layer of production risk.

These challenges are common across the pet industry and other demanding markets. Choosing the right label supplier can help companies reduce operational risk by keeping lines running faster and more consistently.

Put Your Supplier to the Test

Inland's labels run faster than competitors' across the accounts we serve, including in categories like pet care products and pet food, where line speed and consistency are critical data points.

If your label supplier's pitch stops at unit price, you're only seeing part of the picture. Line performance, not unit price, determines a label's total cost of ownership.

We specialize in pet food and pet care labels that keep pace with your compliance needs and growing product offerings. Request a sample or schedule a consultation to discover how our labels will perform on your line.

READY TO GET STARTED?

Pet care labels that scale as fast as your SKUs

Pressure sensitive label printing engineered for premium and private label pet care brands.

We keep pace with production across breeds, species, and life stages without compromising food-safety standards.

No pressure; just a straightforward conversation.

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