



The Standard Horizon AFC-566FG (right), includes set-up automation through a user-friendly, 10.4" color touchscreen control panel that allows operators to achieve ultra-fast changeovers. According to 3A Press, they have done more than 20 million folds between the AFC-566FG and AF-406F folders with no problems.



Third-generation family owned business based in Puerto Rico

## 3A Press Achieves Exceptional Productivity with Bindery Powered by Standard Horizon.

Horizon finishing solutions offer short learning curves and feature easy and efficient set-ups.

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Packaging for the life science industry is the bread and butter of Puerto Rico-based 3A Press. This third-generation family owned business began by producing manuals and inserts, and expanded into production of folding cartons, laminated corrugated boxes, as well as training and assembly kits. Over time, one of the company's goals was to be a local alternative to customers who were outsourcing their packaging demands off of the island.



Operations Manager Axel Rosado (left) and Vice President Alex Rosado (right), stand beside the Standard Horizon AF-406F Automated Folder. A commemorative plaque recognizes Alexis Rosado, founder of 3A Press.

Looking back into the company's history, Axel

Rosado, 3A Press Operations Manager, recalls his first experience with a Standard Horizon machine. "We acquired our first piece of Standard Horizon finishing equipment from a competitor who was shutting down his operations on the island, a stitcher. We saw then how easy and efficient it was to set up and operate with a very short learning curve. That's when we decided to acquire the Standard Horizon AFC-566FG Automated Folder and, following that, the Standard Horizon AF-406F Small-Format Folder through the local dealer, Industrial Consulting Group."

The Standard Horizon AF-406F is a small-format, fully automated 6-buckle folder that can produce small folds down to 0.79". This provides application flexibility, especially for pharmaceutical insert specifications. Up to 200 custom jobs can be stored in memory for easy recall in seconds, one of the many features that create an advantage for 3A Press. The Standard Horizon AFC-566FG also includes set-up automation through a user-friendly, 10.4" color touchscreen control panel that allows 3A Press to achieve ultra-fast changeovers.

Rosado notes that set-ups on 3A's previous folding solution were highly manual and it could take as many as three days to set up

and stabilize. "We have some really complex folds," he says. "Sometimes we have to fold 25x38" sheets down to 2x3" for pharmaceutical inserts, and our lead times were highly inefficient. Now we can get these complex folds set up in a matter of a few hours for the first time, and in seconds for saved jobs. Plus, we aren't

continuously stopping to readjust. Thus creating value to 3A Press and our customers."

Rosado reports that 3A Press has been delighted with the performance and reliability of the folding equipment



from Standard. "We've done more than 20 million folds on these machines with no problems. We also acquired a Standard Horizon BQ-270V Perfect Binder to round out our bindery department and to make it easier to efficiently manage shorter book runs as low as 10 to 20 units."

The popular Standard Horizon BQ-270V single-clamp binder offers high-quality production perfect binding with fully automated operation, push-button simplicity, and on-demand production of variable thickness books. A single operator can produce up to 500 books per hour.

Having the Standard Horizon equipment up and running was a blessing for 3A Press following Hurricane Maria. "We were lucky," Rosado says. "On our side of the island, the damage was minimal, but even so, we were on generator for 25 days without telephone or internet, and some of our customers were not back up and running till December. Because we had such an efficient binding operation in place, we were able to handle the spike in production when they came back to work. We are very grateful for all the help we have received from Standard Horizon."