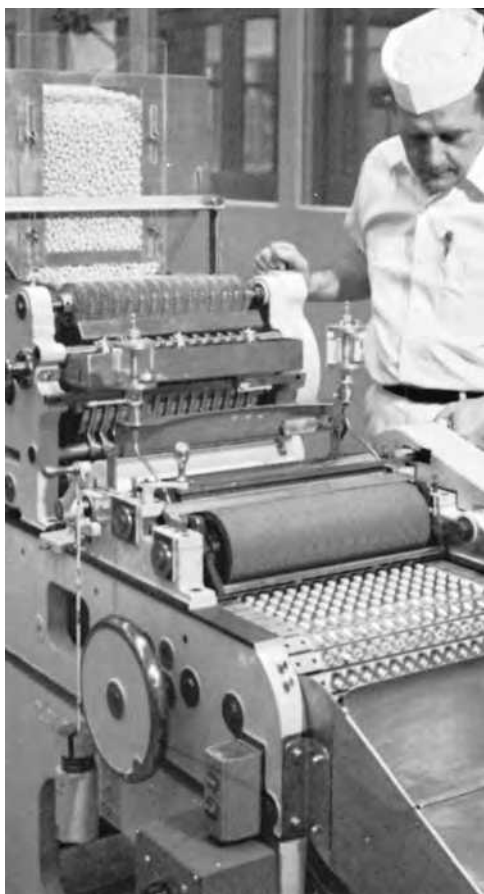


thin syrup containing the desired colorant are applied in the usual manner. This step is performed in a clean pan, free from previous coating materials.

### Imprinting

Solid dosage forms may be passed through a special imprinting machine (Fig. 8.33) to impart identification codes and other distinctive symbols. By FDA regulation, effective in 1995, all solid dosage forms for human consumption, including both prescription-only and over-the-counter drug products, must be imprinted with product-specific identification codes. Some exemptions to this requirement are allowed: those used in clinical investigations, those that are extemporaneously compounded in the course of pharmacy practice, radiopharmaceutical



**FIGURE 8.33** Branding of coated compression tablets on a Hartnett branding machine. (Courtesy of Pfizer, Inc.)

drug products, and products that, because of their size, shape, texture, or other physical characteristics, make imprinting technologically not feasible.

Technically, the imprint may be *debossed*, *embossed*, *engraved*, or printed on the surface with ink. *Debossed* means imprinted with a mark below the surface, *embossed* means imprinted with a mark raised above the surface, and *engraved* means imprinted with a code that is cut into the surface during production.

### Polishing

Coated tablets may be polished in several ways. Special drum-shaped pans or ordinary coating pans lined with canvas or other cloth impregnated with carnauba wax and/or beeswax may be used to polish tablets as they tumble in the pan. Or, pieces of wax may be placed in a polishing pan, and the tablets allowed to tumble over the wax until the desired sheen is attained. A third method is light spraying of the tablets with wax dissolved in a nonaqueous solvent. Two or three coats of wax may be applied, depending upon the desired gloss. After each coat has been applied, the addition of a small amount of talc to the tumbling tablets contributes to their high luster (Fig. 8.34).



**FIGURE 8.34** Coated, polished, and monogrammed tablets. (Courtesy of Wyeth-Ayerst Laboratories.)