Eddy currents are often undesirable because they represent a transformation of mechanical energy to internal energy. To reduce this energy loss, moving conducting parts are often laminated—that is, they are built up in thin layers separated by a nonconducting material such as lacquer or a metal oxide. This layered structure increases the resistance of the possible paths of the eddy currents and effectively confines the currents to individual layers. Such a laminated structure is used in transformer cores and motors to minimize eddy currents and thereby increase the efficiency of these devices.

Even a task as simple as buying a candy bar from a vending machine involves eddy currents, as shown in Figure 31.25. After entering the slot, a coin is stopped momentarily while its electrical resistance is checked. If its resistance falls within an acceptable range, the coin is allowed to continue down a ramp and through a magnetic field. As it moves through the field, eddy currents are produced in the coin, and magnetic forces slow it down slightly. How much it is slowed down depends on its metallic composition. Sensors measure the coin's speed after it moves past the magnets, and this speed is compared with expected values. If the coin is legal and passes these tests, a gate is opened and the coin is accepted; otherwise, a second gate moves it into the reject path.

31.7 MAXWELL'S WONDERFUL EQUATIONS

12.10 We conclude this chapter by presenting four equations that are regarded as the basis of all electrical and magnetic phenomena. These equations, developed by James Clerk Maxwell, are as fundamental to electromagnetic phenomena as Newton's laws are to mechanical phenomena. In fact, the theory that Maxwell developed was more far-reaching than even he imagined because it turned out to be in agreement with the special theory of relativity, as Einstein showed in 1905.

Maxwell's equations represent the laws of electricity and magnetism that we have already discussed, but they have additional important consequences. In Chapter 34 we shall show that these equations predict the existence of electromagnetic waves (traveling patterns of electric and magnetic fields), which travel with a speed $c = 1/\sqrt{\mu_0 \epsilon_0} = 3.00 \times 10^8$ m/s, the speed of light. Furthermore, the theory shows that such waves are radiated by accelerating charges.

For simplicity, we present **Maxwell's equations** as applied to free space, that is, in the absence of any dielectric or magnetic material. The four equations are

$$\oint_S \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = \frac{Q}{\epsilon_0} \tag{31.12}$$

Gauss's law

$$\oint_S \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{A} = 0 \tag{31.13}$$

Gauss's law in magnetism

$$\oint \mathbf{E} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = -\frac{d\Phi_B}{dt} \tag{31.14}$$

Faraday's law

$$\oint \mathbf{B} \cdot d\mathbf{s} = \mu_0 I + \epsilon_0 \mu_0 \frac{d\Phi_E}{dt} \tag{31.15}$$

Ampère–Maxwell law