

A packaging process comprising the steps of providing a semi-sealed package (23) containing a product (20) to be packaged, providing a vacuum chamber (353), adjusting a spacing between a first (351) and a second (352) member of the vacuum chamber (353) to open the vacuum chamber (353), relatively positioning the semi-sealed package (23) and the vacuum chamber (353) such that a terminal portion (236) of an end of the package (23) is positioned within the vacuum chamber (353) and a non-terminal portion (232) of the end is positioned outside the vacuum chamber (353), an intermediate portion (234) of the end passing through the opening (354), adjusting the spacing to bring the first (351) and second (352) members, except for the opening (354), substantially sealingly in contact with one another, the intermediate portion (234) being received in the opening (354), creating, within the vacuum chamber (353), an internal vacuum pressure such as to determine a gas flow through the opening (354) causing opposing layers of the film (21) at the second end to maintain a substantially spaced-apart configuration, and to aspirate both gas from inside the semi-sealed package (23) and gas from an ambient atmosphere through the opening (354). A gas extraction device and a packaging apparatus (1) including the device are also disclosed.