Kistler-Morse®

Multiple Products

case history

Market: Plastics Industry

CUSTOMER

Primex, headquartered in Richmond, IN, makes plastic sheets for thermoformers, printers, and die-cutters.

PROBLEM

Primex was building a new manufacturing facility in Mesquite, NV, in 1992. First, the company needed an accurate and reliable means to monitor from one location the inventory weights of plastic resins in large storage vessels. Secondly, Primex wanted an accurate method to weigh and control proportions for consistent color-blending.

APPLICATION

Primex installed Kistler-Morse Load Discs beneath 12 carbon steel bins (40,000 lb. capacity) and used Kistler-Morse Load Stands under 12 large silos (250,000 lb. capacity). Output from these load cell-based devices were linked together via K-M's Multi-Vessel Systems software, so that inventory weights in all bins could be monitored from one location. Finally, Primex used K-M programmable batch controllers to allocate plastic resin out of the smaller bins and into weigh hoppers for a proportioning control operation.

BENEFIT

"The main advantage is that we have quick access as to the content in our silos and bins," says Ralph Harper, Quality and Raw Materials Manager at the Mesquite site. "We can monitor all bins and silos from one point." He added that the batching operation is "very accurate. We select batch sizes anywhere from 50 to 400 pounds, and it's typically accurate within a couple pounds or less," Harper says. "That's very important when we're making colors, because the color is made by a color concentrate pigment that's added according to weight proportions. It's very critical that those weights be just right -- it's the only way to maintain color consistency."

CONCLUSION

Harper says that Kistler-Morse "has been very good about servicing their equipment after they sold it to us. They were just here this week to help us out with some minor problems." Equipment reliability is important because the facilty typically operates 24 hours a day, six days a week in the course of producing 20 to 30 million pounds of plastic sheets per year.

KM 02-99.PMX.04-01, August 1993