Kistler-Morse®

Direct Support Products

case history

Market: Hot-Melt Coatings

CUSTOMER

Headquartered in Atlanta, GA, Pave-Mark manufactures hot-melt coatings used to make yellow and white lines on roads and highways.

PROBLEM

In 1991, the company was building a new facility in Adelanto, CA, and needed a reliable means of monitoring material weights in load tanks and mixers. Dave McHugh, Vice-President of Manufacturing at Pave-Mark, decided to use Kistler-Morse Load Blocks at the California facility, based upon his success with another K-M product line at the Georgia plant. "We've had their Microcells on skirted silos since 1984," McHugh says. "There's three Microcells on each tank. I wouldn't say that they're super-accurate, but they're very reliable. The Microcells are accurate within 10% of what's in the silos, so it gives me an approximate tool as to how much I have on hand." All of the Atlanta silos hold calcium carbonate. The silos range in size from 150,000 to 250,000 lbs.

McHugh knew that he needed greater accuracy for the loadings tanks and mixer at the California plant. The tanks weighed 1,200 lbs. when empty, and would hold 4,000 lbs. of calcium carbonate, glass beads, titanium dioxide and hydrocarbon resins. Meanwhile, the mixer itself weighed 8,000 lbs. when empty, and would hold 4,000 lbs of mixed product. "We'd used Kistler-Morse in Georgia for almost ten years," McHugh says, "And they'd always given us pretty good service. I decided to give them a try at our new plant."

APPLICATION

Kistler-Morse installed Load Blocks under each leg on the steel load tanks and steel mixer. The mixer application was further complicated by an agitating arm that stirred the various ingredients for the hot-melt coatings. Each of the load tanks are filled manually from bag break stations. Materials are first conveyed to a charge bin, then sent to the mixer for blending. After that, the finished product is bagged.

BENEFIT

Load Blocks at the California plant are accurate within two pounds of the load tanks' total load, according to McHugh. (That's equal to 0.04% accuracy.) Meanwhile, on the agitated mixer, McHugh says the Kistler-Morse Load Blocks are accurate within six pounds.

CONCLUSION

Kistler-Morse's Microcells at the Atlanta facility provide a reliable solution for an approximate inventory control application. Meanwhile, the K-M Load Blocks at the California site provide highly accurate measurements that meet tight quality control standards in a production application.

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