



Kistler-Morse®

Bolt-On Products

case history

KM 02-01.LEV.04-01 August 1991

Market: Production of Laundry Detergents and Soaps

CUSTOMER

Lever Bros. manufacturing facility in Edgewater, N.J. With headquarters in New York City, Lever Bros. is one of the world's largest producers of soap and detergent. Company brands include All, Dove, Lifebuoy, Lux, Sunlight, Surf and Wisk.

PROBLEM

The Edgewater plant would occasionally run out of ingredients during batch processes to make soaps and detergent. "We'd lose a two to three-thousand pound batch after the batching process was already underway," says Hernan Sierra, instrumentation engineer. In addition to profits lost with the unfinished and discarded batch, the plant would suffer a costly slowdown in production. "Sometimes it would take as long as four hours to replace the missing ingredient," Sierra says. "It was a big waste of time."

APPLICATION

In 1986, the plant's engineers installed Kistler-Morse Bolt-On Microcell Sensors to monitor powder ingredient levels in four silos, each feeding 10,000 lbs. of product to the batch process. "We didn't need a high degree of accuracy, just around five percent," Sierra says, "But we've been getting a two percent

level even though we mounted the sensors on only three of each silo's four legs."

BENEFIT

Kistler-Morse's strain gage technology provided satisfactory level indication for batching operations, Sierra says, but the main benefit was the easy installation of the sensors. "At that time, our plant's budget was very cramped," he says, "If we'd tried to put those on a silo with regular load cells, it would've been tremendously expensive, because we'd have had to raise the silos. As it worked out, all we had to do was drill a few holes and put the units in."

CONCLUSION

Lever Bros. keeps its batching operations running smoothly, without running out of product in the middle of a batch. And the plant didn't have to undertake costly engineering efforts to install the bolt-on sensors. "We made a few calibrations at the beginning when we first put them in," Sierra says, "They've been performing very well for the last five years."