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Production interruption filtered out at paper mill

A Cross automatic backwashing filter has successfully cured problems with the main raw water inlet supply to restore uninterrupted production at a large UK paper mill.

The Georgia Pacific mill at Oughtibridge in Yorkshire began to experience problems when the make-up of the inlet water was altered to meet improved environmental standards. The mill, which manufactures disposable paper products from recycled raw materials, demands a water supply of up to 11,000 litres (2500 gallons) per minute for production machinery that normally runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Kevin Goss, Papermaking Projects Engineer at Oughtibridge, explained: "To reduce overall water consumption we added recycled water from our effluent treatment plant to our main raw water inlet source, in line with upgraded environmental guidelines. As a result, a certain amount of debris from our production and effluent treatment processes was re-introduced and began to overload the inlet filter fitted at that time. This precipitated excessive mechanical backwashing, which at times was still unable to prevent the filter from blocking completely.

"On such occasions we had to bypass the filter, causing unfiltered water to reach the production machinery, leading to problems with blocked spray bar nozzles and filtration equipment in these critical areas. This could result in lost production whilst plant was shut down for cleaning."

Kevin contacted specialist filtration company John Morfield, who, having successfully fitted Cross filters in similarly demanding applications, recommended replacing the old filter with a Cross System



2000 installation. The System 2000 is a modular design that is custom built to economically meet the exact operating criteria of each application. The requisite number of filter pods – each containing seven patented

“zero-gravity” stainless steel filter coils – are fitted on manifolds to meet the maximum operating flow and pressure. Because each filter pod is backwashed individually under PLC sequential control, forward flow through the filter is never interrupted and there is no need to oversize or to provide dual redundancy.

PO Box 2945
CORSHAM
SN13 9WT
Tel/Fax: 01249 714447
Email: ftpublicity@aol.com

The “zero-gravity” filter coils are designed to open fully along their entire length to achieve completely effective backwashing using only a minimum amount of reversed water flow. The design eliminates any requirement for scrapers or other inefficient mechanical backwashing devices. Raised ridges on the filter coils define the absolute filter rating, which is selectable in a range of sizes from 12 to 400 microns. A turbo flow path in each filter pod keeps as much debris as possible away from the surface of the coils, thus further minimising backwashing frequency.

The Cross System 2000 installation at Georgia Pacific Oughtibridge comprises eight filter pods, containing coils rated at 75 microns. The filter, which was installed by a local specialist pipework company and commissioned by Cross, operates fully automatically with backwashing triggered by a preset pressure drop differential across the coils. Kevin Goss confirms that the Cross filter has completely cured the problems that he had previously been experiencing, enabling production at the mill to return to normal and removing the threat of unplanned stoppages resulting from poor water quality.

Issued on behalf of:
CROSS MANUFACTURING CO. (1938) LTD.
Midford Road
Bath
BA2 5RR.
Tel: 01225 837000, Fax: 01225 834115
e-mail: mail@crossmanufacturing.com
For more information contact:
Tom Cross – Cross Manufacturing.

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