



Block Bearings in Tortilla Oven, Belgium

CUSTOMER:

Snack Food Producer, Belgium- Tex Mex Food

APPLICATION:

High Speed Tortilla Chip Oven, originally manufactured by Lawrence Equipment in the US. The oven is equipped with 3 conveyor belts running at a speed of 83-93 m/min and a temperature of 400-500°C. The shafts supporting these conveyor belts are equipped with graphite block bushings which are installed outside the firebox.

**PROBLEM:**

The graphite block bushings supplied by the oven OEM have a high failure rate. The original supplier of these bushings is unknown. A total of 42 bushings are installed in the oven and every week 10-15 pieces need to be placed. The bushing material appears to be brittle when removed.

GRAPHALLOY SOLUTION:

After a thorough investigation, Graphalloy's Engineering team found that the current housing is too big for standard block bushings and therefore not able to maintain the correct tolerance during operating conditions. A custom block bushing that will fit the existing housing with the right tolerance was offered. To withstand the extreme conditions, Graphalloy copper-grade material was selected which can up to 400°C.

RESULTS:

By providing custom block bushings of the right material the failure rate has been reduced to a maximum of 2 pieces per week. This is a significant improvement resulting in less downtime and higher productivity.



Original Bearing in Application



Wear of Original Plain Graphite Bearing

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