

Case Study #1 **Extending Belt Run-Time**



Background

A well-known biscuit manufacturer had been running the same type of belt since their process line was originally installed. Over time the recipes of the dough mixtures had been further developed as more and newer products were introduced, however the belt type had remained unchanged.

As such, this meant that the belt performance had gradually declined over time, generating more product waste and requiring frequent replacements. But, as there was a perceived lack of choice in terms of belting solutions, there was thought to be no alternative to the current situation.

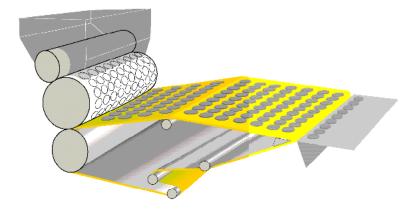
The moulder belts were running continuously over a 24-7 shift pattern and being replaced every 2-3 weeks when they started showing signs of wear.

This frequent rate of replacement was incurring costs for the extra maintenance time needed on each changeover as well as production down-time on the line.



Project brief

The customer felt that the existing belt set-up was becoming a burden and asked the Arville team for their input on any general improvements that could be made.



Solution

We inspected the current machine set-up and watched a typical production run to see how the belt was being used by the line operators and how it performed whilst running on the machine.

We suggested changing to a belt type which had a mixture of both natural and man-made fibres which would be much more durable and less prone to wear whilst retaining its softness and absorbency.

As a specialist weaver of endless belts we have a range of different fibre types which allow us to manufacture food-grade belts to a bespoke specification for maximum effectiveness.



Outcome

The new belt type increased the running life-time to approx. 7 weeks before a changeover was necessary. This meant that over a 12 month period the number of belts needed (and the number of changeovers) was effectively halved.

Cost savings to the plant were significant, the investment in the new belt types meant that unwanted down-time was reduced and running production time was increased - giving an overall improvement in productivity. These savings were in addition to the reduced spend on belts by lengthening their run-time.

To find out more about how we can help with your requirements please contact us T: +44 (0) 1937 582735 or email sales@rotarymoulderbelts.com

