Web Tension Measurement

Success Story

ABB load cells replace strain gauge in coaters/laminators

Raflatac Ltd located in Scarborough, UK produces high quality self adhesive label stock. The product is produced in reel or sheet form.

Raflatac was not pleased with the performance of the coater laminator and thus initiated a production improvement project. In order to improve overall reliability and in order to triple the speed, from 250 m/min to 750 m/min, Raflatac decided to completely rebuild the existing coater laminator.

The existing 3 sets of ABB Load Cells were to be retained and 6 further tension stations were to be added. Driven by cost Raflatac then decided to install low cost strain gauge systems. Over the first year the strain gauge system caused continual drift problems and often required re-calibration, particularly in the “Flying Splice” area. The strain gauge system had to be replaced.

Raflatac had many years of experience from using ABB Load Cells in other areas and were happy with the performance of the Pressductor load cells as they provided strong signals without drift or the need for regular re-calibration. These were good reasons for Raflatac to make the decision to phase out the 6 strain gauge systems and replace them with ABB Pressductor Load Cells.

The following comment bears testament to ABB’s claim to the superiority of Pressductor load cells in production applications:

"We are very pleased with the performance of ABB Load Cells, in hindsight we should have used them from the start as we know they are reliable, unfortunately at the time we were driven by cost. In the final analysis we have paid a higher price as a result."

John Kelday, Electrical Engineer at Raflatac

Contact ABB to learn how ABB Pressductor load cells can improve the tension measurement in your coater.