

Case note Intralox - Safe bearings for strict hygienic demands



When conveyance-solutions provider Intralox decided to standardize components globally, ABB's Dodge® E-Z Kleen® ball bearings proved the perfect fit for a key product.

US company Intralox is the world's leading producer and innovator of modular plastic conveyor belts. The company is headquartered in New Orleans, Louisiana, and has regional headquarters in Amsterdam and Shanghai. With more than 40 years' experience behind it, Intralox aims to deliver economic value to its customers through innovative technology and outstanding service. It employs a direct-to-customer business model and a global, industry-specific structure.

The problem

One of Intralox's key technology platforms is the Activated Roller Belt™ (ARB), an innovative material- and package-handling technology used in food and beverage applications. ARB-based solutions typically allow users to handle new, smaller and harder-to-handle package types at a higher throughput level, without the need for a larger footprint. Intralox produces automation equipment for the ARB platform at four facilities located around the world.

The facilities producing the ARB platform previously relied on locally sourced components. Intralox, however, decided to implement a global standardization program for its equipment product lines to increase efficiency. It needed a supplier that could provide quality products and consistent service to all four regions.

All Dodge E-Z Kleen housings are machined with a groove to accept a snap-on polymer end cover, creating a secure and ridged fit that can withstand high-pressure washdowns.

ABB offers a complete line of Dodge washdown ball bearings that have been engineered to comply with food safety guidelines.



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The solution

ABB was well placed to serve Intralox in all its locations, thanks to its global reach and full line of Dodge mechanical power transmission products.

ABB's Dodge product manager in the Netherlands, Léon Benne, reacted quickly when he learned of the Intralox standardization plans. "As soon as I had a clear picture of their requirements, I proposed Dodge E-Z Kleen mounted ball bearings," Benne says. "This is the only bearing in the industry that offers a patented sealing system that keeps contaminants out of the bearing and food-grade lubricants in. Since this product is specifically designed for washdown applications, I believed it was the ideal choice for Intralox."

Customer benefits

Ruud Zwetsloot, an equipment engineer at Intralox Europe, says ABB's offer marked the beginning of a fruitful relationship between the two companies. "A dependable supply chain is crucial for our lean manufacturing assembly operations," he says. "Now we can count on the quick and easy supply of the same type of bearings here in the Netherlands, as we can in the US, China and Brazil. This and ABB's smooth service network make it really easy for us to do business and to provide more value to our customers."

By providing innovative conveyor solutions that also include industry-leading ball bearings, Intralox is well positioned to meet increasingly stringent food safety and sanitation requirements around the world.

Customer statement

As well as solving a major logistics issue, E-Z Kleen bearings more than meet Intralox's strict requirements. Ruud Zwetsloot explains: "The food and beverage industry is a particularly harsh environment for bearings. To withstand the continuous washdowns, Dodge bearings have a coated insert and are also fitted with special protective seals that make them last longer. These bearings have a proven track record in the United States."

About Intralox

With more than 40 years' experience, Intralox delivers economic value to its customers through innovative technology. Its patented ARB technology has enabled Intralox's customers to further automate their production lines and distribution systems. The additional functionality of ARB typically allows these companies to handle new, smaller and harder-to-handle package types at a higher throughput level, without the need for a larger footprint.

For more information please contact:

new.abb.com/mechanical-power-transmission

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