

Packing Savings and Sausages

Food Processing Industry



Synopsis

- ◆ Application: Drag conveyor belts
- ◆ Problem: Bearing failures every 3-6 months due to water ingress
- ◆ Solution: FoodSafe™ mounted ball bearings

The problem

An industry leader and Ohio-based canned sausage producer continually experienced unplanned downtime due to mounted ball bearing failures. Machines throughout the facility are repeatedly flushed with water and undergo daily high-pressure washdowns. With stringent process requirements in place to prevent spoilage, mechanical breakdowns cause downtime that incurs significant expenses.

The machines are comprised of a winding set of drag conveyor-style belts, typically supported by 1-1/4 inch shaft, two- and four-bolt flange mounted ball bearings. Sliced sausages are carried through the machinery by slotted belt conveyors to be placed into cans before being sent to the next location for closing, heating, and finishing.

Regular washdowns performed on the machines caused water ingress, removing the grease in the cage and rolling element areas which led to metal-on-metal contact that would worsen until failure—requiring bearing replacement every 3 to 6 months.

The success

After a period of testing, plant management decided to replace every mounted ball bearing in their facility with FoodSafe™ mounted ball bearings, resulting in

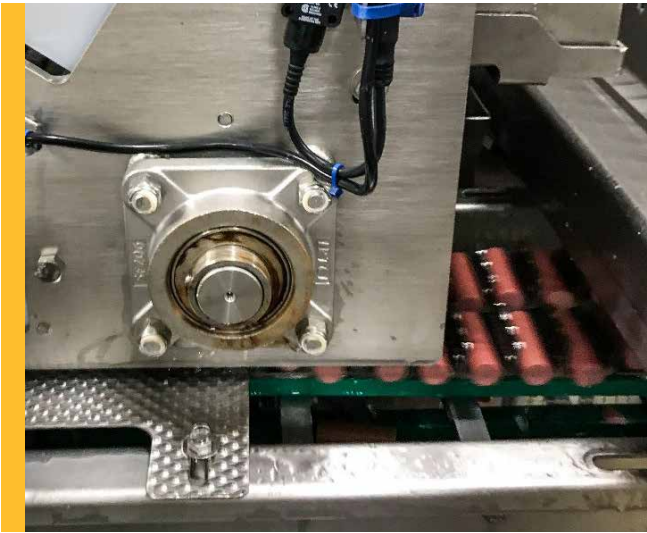
average annual savings of

\$167,870

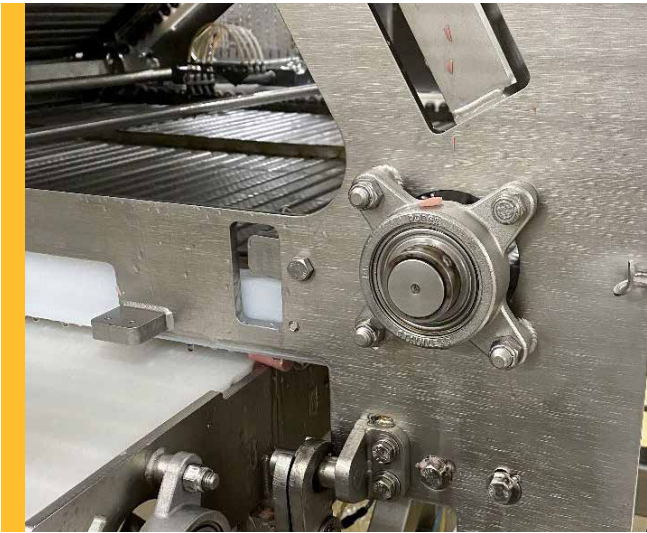


Proven solutions to withstand washdowns

Reduced maintenance. Reduced cost.



The original bearings were replaced every 3 to 6 months due to failure from water ingress.



FoodSafe bearings replaced every bearing throughout the facility due to their superior performance and reduced maintenance.

The test

In order to find a long-term solution, plant management tested Dodge® FoodSafe bearings against a competitor's washdown bearings.

The results

After 1 year of testing, the competitor's product showed obvious signs of lubrication leaking from the seals, while the FoodSafe bearings exhibited zero signs of leakage or failure—proving its superior performance.

The why

Not only did performance over time set FoodSafe bearings apart from the competition, but their 1-year guarantee against failure due to water ingress and maintenance-free design elevated the plant managers' confidence in the Dodge solution to the next level. Labor shortages and the lack of trained staff further fueled the plant managers' decision to replace every single bearing in the sausage-canning facility with FoodSafe, totalling 108 bearings across three machines.

2-year total cost of ownership

