

CASE STUDY: K-Snap-Loc® Dust Seal System

Products:	K-Snap-Loc® Dust Seal System (RU83
Product category:	FRAS) Conveyor Skirting & Transfer
Location:	Gladstone, Queensland
Conveyed materials:	Grain
Tonnes per hour:	400tph
Installation date:	September 2013

Previous problem:



Photos of K-Snap-Loc installed around the transfer point – the blue polyurethane indicates the Fire Resistant Anti Static FRAS properties.

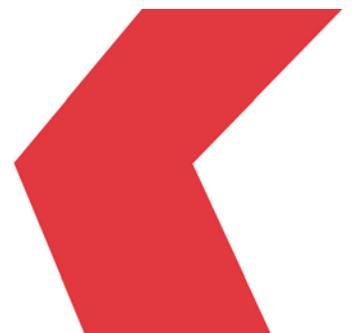


Our customer is an Australian ASX 100 company founded nearly 100 years ago and they are now recognised as an international leader in food ingredients and agribusiness. Throughout their operations, they focus on safety, sustainability and the environment; aiming to improve productivity and dispose of waste efficiently.

The grain handling industry is a high hazard industry where fires and explosions can occur from grain dust accumulation. Over the last 35 years, there have been over 500 explosions in grain handling facilities globally, which have killed more than 180 people and injured more than 675.

Grain dust is highly combustible and can burn or explode if enough becomes airborne or accumulates on a surface and finds an ignition source (such as hot bearings, overheated motors, or misaligned conveyor belt).

Our customer was previously using a ½ inch thick FRAS rated rubber (Fire Resistant Anti Static), necessary to comply with OHS regulations to avoid dust explosions. The rubber had developed memory fatigue, and was no longer soft enough to conform to the belt sag between the idlers. As a result our customer was experiencing a lot of product escaping the skirting which was causing spillage. On average, skirting had to be changed every 2 years.



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Resolution:

K-Snap-Loc® Dust Seal Key Features:

- Field tested with 8 to 10 times the wear life over quality rubber
- 60% less coefficient of friction than rubber
- More energy efficient than rubber
- Non porous so can be used with materials from wet clay to iron ore
- Will not collect fines or other materials that can damage your belt
- Suitable for all belt widths and trough angles

The customer made the decision to install Kinder Australia's K-Snap-Loc® Dust Deal System, using it to provide an effective seal at the conveyor transfer points. In comparison to the previously used rubber, the 5 key benefits of changing to the engineered polyurethane have been:

1. **immediate spillage reductions** because K-Snap-Loc's® new generation skirting offers longer term memory shaping capabilities;
2. **longer-term replacement cost savings** because K-Sna-Loc® Dust Seal is 8 to 10 times more durable than rubber;
3. **immediate and ongoing reduction in maintenance costs** because K-Snap-Loc® needs less adjustments due to the memory-set and less cleaning time because it doesn't accumulate dust-build up;
4. **ongoing energy savings** due to K-Snap Loc's® superior low friction properties, achieving less drag on the conveyor; and
5. **ongoing improvements to the preservation of the belt** itself because materials don't collect under the slippery surface of K-Snap-Loc's® polyurethane, potentially causing damage to the belt.

K-Snap-Loc® is available in FRAS rated formulations specifically for industries where combustion risks are present.



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