MCNEIL INDUSTRIES

MAXAM® BEARINGS

The Problem Solver

MAXAM Bearings Produced $152,000 Annual Savings for Plant

For over 30 years, MAXAM bearings have been utilized to solvethe most difficult problems caused by harsh operating environments and few areas severe as pulp mills. The combinationof heat, water, chemicals and other contaminants can be tough on bearings andother wear parts, like conveyor tail pulley bearings, kiln car wheel bearings,and shifter arm bushings.

An Alabama pulp mill had to change out the bearings on thehigh-end of their conveyor to the rotating kiln 7 or 8 times per year resultingin very costly kiln downtime.

Despite a pressurized feed of high-temp grease and protectivelube seals on each bearing, the ball bearings deteriorated rapidly. Aswitch to roller bearings fared no better. The rollers would get pittedup. The races and cages would break down from the intense heat andmoisture, lock up and disintegrate.

Usually the maintenance mechanics could predict the bearingsfailure when higher amps on the drive motor were noticed, but often the bearingfailure was not recognized until there was damage to the shaft, as well. Each bearing change-out resulted in a 6 hr. shut down of the kiln, as well asthe cost of two mechanics, a new set of bearings and oftentimes a shaft.

The mill asked their bearing supplier to find a bearing whichwould give them at least a year. MAXAM bearings were recommended and aset was installed in the conveyor's original pillow block housing. Overone year later during a scheduled shutdown, the shaft was pulled. TheMAXAM bearings showed no wear to the race surfaces. The resulting annual savings exceeded$150,000 for the plant.

Based on that success, the maintenance team found otherapplications for MAXAM products. One was on a snub roller where exposureto caustic fluids ruined seals, contaminated lube and caused premature failureto conventional bearings. Another application found for MAXAM was intheir agitator, which was exposed to caustic lime mud and water. The factthat MAXAM material is non-corrosive and doesn't rust solved the problem.

If you are trying tohelp a customer solve a problem caused by under-performing bearings or otherwear parts, or you are trying to differentiate yourself from the competitor,MAXAM is likely the solution.

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