



PROBLEM SOLVED™ PAPER

SOLUTION: Martin® Air Supported Conveyor

INDUSTRY: Food Processing

LOCATION: Coors Brewing Company
Golden, Colorado



Commissioned in 2002, the Martin® Air Supported Conveyor System at the Coors facility in Golden Colorado incorporates a vertical curve.



The air supported conveyors in the Coors Brewing Company plant in Golden, Colorado incorporate air-supported returns to eliminate idler bearings and the maintenance they require.

PROBLEM

Several barleys are fed onto the system at different load points to the belt to create the blended brewing malt. The system conveys 340 tph.

Concerns over the hazards of grain dust explosions and the costly clean up of conveyor tunnels led the brewery to consider the use of totally enclosed air supported belt conveyors.

SOLUTION

Martin® Air Supported Conveyor

RESULTS

The use of air supported belt conveyors has been very successful at Coors.

Prior to the introduction of the first air supported conveyor, the plant dedicated two employees full time to sweep up the conveyor head house. The elimination of these cleanup chores resulted in a significant cost savings for the company.

Since the first installation in 1987, Coors has installed seven air supported conveyors totaling nearly 3000 feet (900 m) in length.

The most recent project, commissioned in 2002, was the installation of a 137-foot (41.8-m) conveyor with a 30-inch (762-mm) belt. This totally enclosed system incorporates a vertical curve to raise the cargo to the proper level in the plant.

The Coors plant has incorporated air supported belt returns on all conveyors to eliminate the bearings—and hence the need for lubrication and maintenance—from the conveyor systems. Other projects incorporating air supported conveyors are under consideration at Coors Brewing Company.

Martin® Air Supported Conveyor is protected by U.S. Patent No. 6,966,430.

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