

Case Study

Checkweighing

Solution for pharmaceutical company reduces waste of expensive materials

Challenge

- Ensure bins are completely empty of materials before washing
- Prevent waste of expensive materials
- Adhere to safety regulations regarding disposal of waste

Solution

- Oversized ADVANTAGE load cells and custom-made mounts
- Allow for shock loading while still providing accurate weight measurement
- Display shows calibrations and diagnostics

Results

- Prevent waste of expensive materials
- Increased safety of potentially hazardous waste



THE CHALLENGE:

A pharmaceutical company needs to ensure that a large stainless steel bin holding drug products is completely empty before washing the bin, since the products often stick to the sides of the bin even after vibrating and hammering the vessel. "The residual material is expensive and represents a loss in revenue for us," states the customer. Besides, environmental regulations do not allow dangerous chemicals to go down the drain. Finally this application requires a different type of load cell since each time the robot drops the bin on the bin washer conveyer, this causes a significant shock to the load cells.

THE SOLUTION:

Oversized ADVANTAGE® load cells with custom-made mounts to fit the existing gap in the structure (see illustration) are installed to allow for the shock loading, while still being able to provide accurate weigh measurement to meet the required tolerance. The weight data is sent to the yield check system to meet a programmed threshold before going onto cleaning. An HMI is used for local display, calibrations and diagnostics.

THE RESULTS:

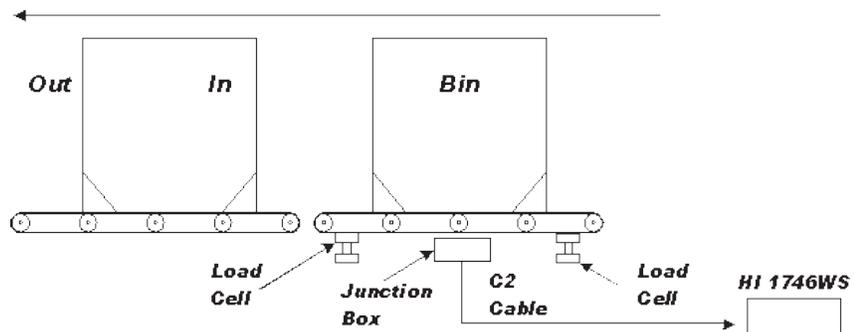
This self-checking system prevents the waste of very expensive and potentially hazardous pharmaceutical materials from being washed down the drain. "We now know the bin is empty rather than having to guess," says the operator.

EQUIPMENT USED:

Matched stainless hermetically sealed ADVANTAGE® load cells for better accuracy. HI 1746 modules, C2® cable and IT® junction boxes.

EXAMPLE CUSTOMERS and APPLICABLE INDUSTRIES:

Pharmaceutical and other plants where washing bins, hoppers and totes are an important part of the process.



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