

Bearing Lubricant Solution

Certified Bearing Specialist Extends Bearing Life for Bakery Application

A Chicago-area bakery was replacing the tray support bearings in its ovens on a reactionary basis. Their weekly inspection cycle was resulting in two mechanics spending an average of 20 labor hours per week to replace failed bearings. The premature bearing failures were caused by a combination of the high heat and humidity in the ovens, resulting in lubrication failure and contamination. When BDI was asked to recommend a solution, the bakery was averaging one month of bearing life in this application.

BDI suggested SmartLUBE, a solid graphite fill applied to standard bearings to provide constant lubrication and prevent contamination. SmartLUBE can withstand up to 660° Fahrenheit for extended periods and carries an NSF H-1 food grade certification. SmartLUBE is used on various types of bearings with exceptions being those with non-metallic cages. Several sizes and types of bearings are available. Stock products include bearings from AMI, Nachi and EBC. SmartLUBE can also be applied to popular bearing brands.



Based on the 12-month average life established in the testing, this bakery documented \$726,573 in annual cost savings from the three ovens it has in service. Additional ovens at the customer's other bakeries are presently being retrofitted with SmartLUBE bearings.

The \$726,573 cost saving was calculated based on reduced bearing consumption, reduced labor to replace bearings, and increased oven production due to reduced downtime for maintenance. This calculation was reviewed and approved by the customer's plant maintenance manager. **PTE**



BSA's Certified Bearing Specialist (CBS) program is the only bearing industry-specific program that identifies and quantifies the specific skill sets to certify an industry professional as a bearing specialist. The CBS program is all about developing the expertise to help customers and end users make the best bearing decisions. Take advantage of this complimentary access to a Certified Bearing Specialist. Please email your question to info@bsahome.org. An expert CBS will respond to your inquiry and it may appear in this article.



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