Success Story

Manufacturing facilities utilize various types of coatings, some of which are two component paint. These formulas must be mixed properly in order to properly adhere and perform in the field as designed. This case study highlights a solution that allowed the customer to maintain tight paint ratios, minimize waste, and remove hand mixing from the process.

CUSTOMER

A leading manufacture within the truck and bus industry located in North Carolina.

CHALLENGE

This truck and bus manufacturing facility has multiple paint booths due to their high volume, high quality, and high standards associated with the paint application. They use a two component primer and paint, and have to maintain automotive quality finish on their production line. The main paint line utilizes a Graco Proportioning System to dispense on ratio paint to operator; however the offline paint repair/touch up facility still relied on manually (or “hot potting”) mixing. Hot potting tended to be very wasteful as the paint mixed wasn’t always sprayed prior to gelling, or the two parts were mixed off ratio causing imperfections within the finish aesthetics and quality. Due to hot potting the general work area was considered “messy” as operators were physically hand mixing paint and catalyst out of drums.

SOLUTION

Air Power in partnership with Graco, proposed a solution utilizing the Graco ProDispense platform of product. This proportioning solution allows the offline operators to mix exactly how much they need for each application on ratio every time. There is no guesswork when it comes to material being mixed or how much is needed, and the work area is self-contained with little to no mess. The offline paint process has become streamlined as the paint operator only has to know how much paint he needs (in liters) and what color. They select the desired paint volume and color from a custom touch screen user interface. Once selected the exact amount is dispensed and mixed into the paint applicator. The operator then removes the paint applicator and performs the associated painting task.

RESULTS

Operators are no longer mixing paint by hand. This alone has saved the company time and money due to costly mistakes associated with the hand mixing process. The waste output has been reduced due to the ability to accurately and repeatedly meter, mix, and dispense the exact volume of paint in which the operator needs on time and on ratio. Aesthetically the workspace is much cleaner. An added benefit to management is the ability to now view, track, and have visibility of paint usage, due to the ProDispense reporting capabilities, within an application which historically has had none. Allowing for better ontime tracking, shipment, and forecasting.

Meet the Author: Jeff Tussey

Jeff Tussey started out in shipping at Air Power. He has worked his way up and is now an Account Manager in the High Point Area.
ASSEMBLE.
MOVE.
COAT.

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CALL US TODAY!

ABOUT US

Air Power is a leading distributor of industrial products and integrated solutions provider. Air Power shows a true dedication to supporting the needs of their customer base by not only distributing industrial equipment, but also offering repair services in-house and in the field, engineering services for integrated solutions and over 50 years of industry experience.

Air Power boasts an impressive team of over 30 Account managers, over 40 application specialists, and 9 branch locations in 3 regions across the Southeast including Mexico, all under 1 company with 1 mission: to build lasting relationships by supporting the manufacturing community with quality products and highly engineered solutions to effectively assemble, move, and coat the products that shape our world.

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