



Application Note

Improving Plastic Pellet & Powder Storage Bin Information On New Vessel Installations

Problem:

Pellet and powder storage bin inventory information is sporadic. Upon installation of the new vessel, it would require sending someone to the top of the tank, opening up the vessel and dropping in a tape. If frequent readings are required, someone is pulled off other jobs to tape the vessels. Often times, especially during bad weather, the current level is guessed at based on estimated usage since the last delivery ticket. If usage is greater than expected or the wrong readings used, shortages occur shutting down the line. Material then needs to be expedited in, not only increasing costs for handling, but many people are involved in walking paperwork through, calling, rescheduling operators and receiving materials to keep the plant in production.

Solution:

Continuous weight information using KM Direct Support Load Cells and KM Weigh-II/SVS 2000 Indicators on the storage vessels. Information can be displayed locally, transmitted to PLC/PC control systems using KM digital interfaces or accessed via the Internet using a KM OBR-enabled system.

Benefits:

- Repeatable, continuous weight readings to base current inventory and material demands. Uses the same units (weight) that is used for reorder and tracking. Track material to determine room for a load or if enough material is on-hand for production.
- Non-contact eliminates material contamination risks.
- Workers not climbing tall vessels, decreasing workers comp and accident claims.
- Material not exposed to weather because the tank does not need to be opened to measure inventory and eliminates risk of dropping something into the tank.
- Easy to accommodate during installation of new vessels.

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