



## Akzo-Nobel Says Heat Transfer Fluid Still As Good As New After 10 years Of Tough Operating Conditions



When a piece of manufacturing equipment has to be taken out of service because it is unable to keep up with the current pace of production, the ensuing downtime can be very costly and expensive. In the short term, it can cost a company thousands of dollars in lost wages and productivity. In the long term, it can cause a company to miss production deadlines and jeopardize customer relationships and future business.

But for maintenance-minded firms like Akzo-Nobel's Casco Impregnated Papers of Coburg, Ontario, missing deadlines isn't an option. As one of North America's leading producers of melamine film (a durable finish applied to counters, table tops and other forms of particle board), Casco is depended on by its customers to get products manufactured and delivered on time no matter what the circumstances. To ensure that they stay on schedule, Casco keeps its equipment running 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year.

Mike Herron, Casco's maintenance and engineering manager for over 13 years, understands the importance of eliminating unnecessary equipment downtime in such an environment.

"Basically, when it comes to manufacturing melamine film, efficiency is the key," Herron explains. "If you're not operating your machinery with maximum efficiency, chances are your profit margins are going to be minimal. At Casco, we have certain speed rates programmed into our machines to ensure they are operating fast enough to meet our production targets. If even one of our machines breaks down unexpectedly, it can throw our entire production line off schedule."



A case in point is the drying ovens at Casco, which are used for drying rolls of melamine film on a continuous basis. Between 115-165 feet of five-foot wide melamine film must be processed by the ovens every sixty seconds or else Casco's entire production timetable will be thrown off schedule. With operating temperatures that can reach up to 190°C, the drying oven places an enormous amount of stress on Casco's heat transfer fluid and heat transfer system.

Herron took these factors into account when it came time to purchase a heat transfer fluid for his new drying oven, which needed over 10,000 litres of fluid to operate effectively. After carefully considering a wide range of products on the market, Herron decided to go with Petro-Canada's CALFLO AF because he felt it offered the best performance characteristics for the best price. As Herron explains, choosing CALFLO AF turned out to be a very profitable decision for his company.

"We chose CALFLO AF because we had experienced a lot of success using other Petro-Canada products in our plant and because Petro-Canada was a local supplier," Herron says. "We're now in our tenth year with the same batch of CALFLO AF, and it looks like we are going to get a couple more years out of it. It is still performing as well as it did when we first bought it, even with the fast feed rates and high operating temperatures."

With the help of the Petro-Canada service team, Casco has taken samples and done a fluid analysis on CALFLO for every year that it has been in the drying oven. The results of the testing show that CALFLO AF has neither oxidized or thickened out of grade during the ten years that it has been in use.



"If the CALFLO should finally break down one day and we have to change out our system, I can guarantee you we will go back to Petro-Canada to buy some more," says Herron. "By helping to prevent downtime in our drying oven for the past ten years, CALFLO AF has contributed immensely to our productivity. It has been a real cost-savings for us."

CALFLO AF is a premium heat transfer fluid designed for use in non-pressurized, indirectly heated, liquid phase heat transfer systems that operate continuously at temperatures of up to 300°C (572°F). It contains specially formulated anti-oxidative chemistry which helps stave off oxidation and lower operating costs by providing longer fluid life and less change-outs versus the competition. CALFLO AF is currently being used in plastics, rubber, die-casting and aluminum manufacturing plants around the world.

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