

Comet Rice Enriches Product Quality with Live Bin Feeders

Customer:

Comet Rice Mills, Inc., Houston, Texas, a major exporter of bulk rice.

Problem:

Comet Rice maintains rigid quality control in the production of bulk rice which is mainly boxed for export. One of the important steps in this process is the addition of an enrichment powder which is — 200 mesh and has a bulk density of 34 lbs. per cu. ft. Formerly, the powder was added by an antiquated piece of equipment that required a visual estimate. The consistency of the mix was not up to the standard desired by the company.

Equipment:

Two Vibra Screw Live Bin Feeders, one with $\frac{1}{2}$ " screw, one with $\frac{3}{4}$ " screw; both 304 stainless steel construction.

Solution:

The Comet management decided to try a Vibra Screw Live Bin Feeder to provide consistent metering of the enrichment powder. The application was highly successful. The powder is stored in the feeder's integral 3 cu. ft. supply hopper. Vibration of the hopper ensures consistent discharge to the feed screw below. Vibration of the screw makes for uniform filling and discharge of each screw flight for precision feed to a transfer conveyor. The company was so pleased with the operation of the first unit that they have since bought a second one for use with a different variety of rice.

Results:

Both Live Bin Feeders have been maintenance and worry free and have paid for themselves in four months' time. Mr. Lee Augustson, the purchasing manager, says that the feeders have been so helpful, "We wish we could find other applications for them."



Controlled feeding is achieved as Mr. Lee Augustson sets regulator on Vibra Screw Live Bin Feeder.