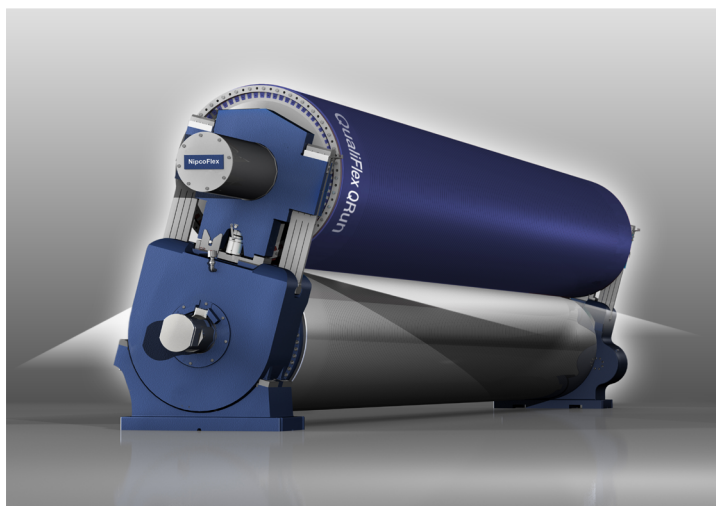


QualiFlex QRun

Case Study: Voith's QualiFlex QRun press sleeves deliver \$240,000 in annual savings



Summary

A leading provider of packaging solutions in the U.S. was experiencing costly problems running their board and packaging machine, including short shoe press sleeve life and other inconclusive failures. The company asked Voith to assess the problems and recommend a solution that would improve production in the current run conditions.

Solution

After visiting the plant to investigate the machine while in full production, Voith experts recommended the QualiFlex QRun press sleeve to extend sleeve run-life and improve press performance in a demanding environment.

Details

QualiFlex QRun shoe press sleeves are made from an innovative polyurethane which offers improved elasticity, strength and stability — leading to fewer sheet breaks, reduced groove collapse through the nip and improved dewatering. Voith was

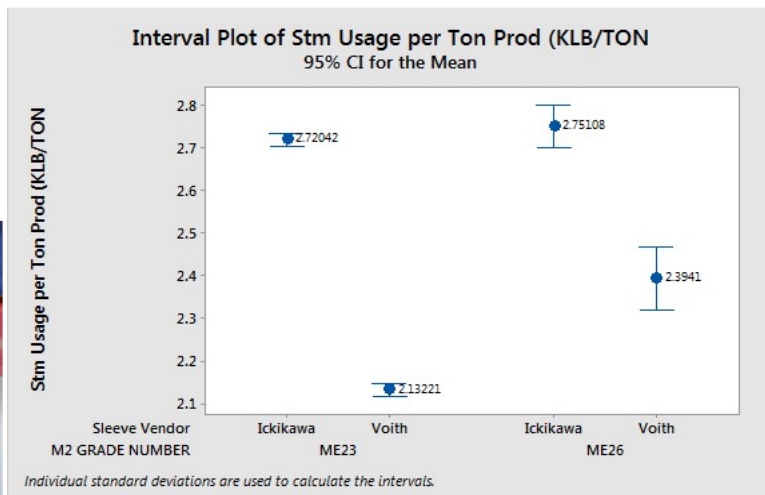
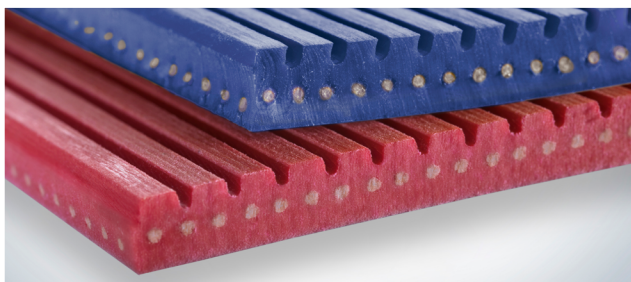
able to offer this solution because it is one of only a few suppliers able to manufacture press sleeves large enough for the diameter demanded by this particular machine. With support from Voith, the new sleeve was installed successfully.

Results

With the new QualiFlex QRun sleeve installed, the company noted improved performance immediately. Over nine days, the machine ran with no sheet breaks, an improvement over previous suppliers. The mill collected data showing that QRun performed better than the previous sleeves under comparable conditions. The QRun's **initial run life was 186 days** — a dramatic improvement over the previous supplier's average of 87 days for its last 20 sleeves. As a result, **\$240,000 annual savings** was seen by using two fewer sleeves per year. Seeing such stark improvement in overall runnability, the company made Voith its main sleeve supplier.

Key performance indicators

Previous yearly sleeve cost	\$480,000
Yearly cost of QRun sleeves	\$240,000
Total annual savings	\$240,000



About QualiFlex QRun

Press sleeves in packaging and board machines are subject to severe compression and harsh exposure to chemicals. With QualiFlex QRun, Voith has developed a polyurethane press sleeve that meets these challenges. It avoids sleeve failures by remaining stable in response to compression. With its improved elasticity, the QRun polyurethane sleeve is more flexible and more resistant to cracking. As a result, the QRun sleeve’s run life is longer and more reliable.

Benefits:

- Tailor-made surface designs for optimum void volume over the life of the sleeve
- Product stability during compressions
- Excellent wear resistance
- Optimal, constant dewatering performance
- Highly dry content after the press
- Numerous surface designs for exact adaptation to your needs

Why partner with Voith?

Voith’s expertise, experienced personnel, hands-on service capabilities and continuous presence in mills helps our customers find the efficiencies they need to achieve their goals. Our quality of service and our paper production experts help Voith stand out from our competitors.

“The paper machine is running as well or better than I can ever recall in my five years working for the company.”

— Operations Manager,
Packaging Solutions Provider

Voith Group

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<https://voith.com/corp-en/papermaking/qualiflex-crest-and-qualiflex-crown.html>

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