

QualiFlex QRun

Case Study: Voith's QualiFlex QRun press sleeve brings mill back to high operation capacity



Summary

A leading provider of packaging solutions in the U.S. recently changed from Voith QualiFlex QRun shoe press sleeves to alternate sleeves provided by another company. As a result, the board and packaging machine was tested in a competitive trial, and the machine was running significantly slower on the competitor's sleeves. The company asked Voith to assess the performance of those sleeves and recommend a solution that would improve machine speed and overall production.

Solution

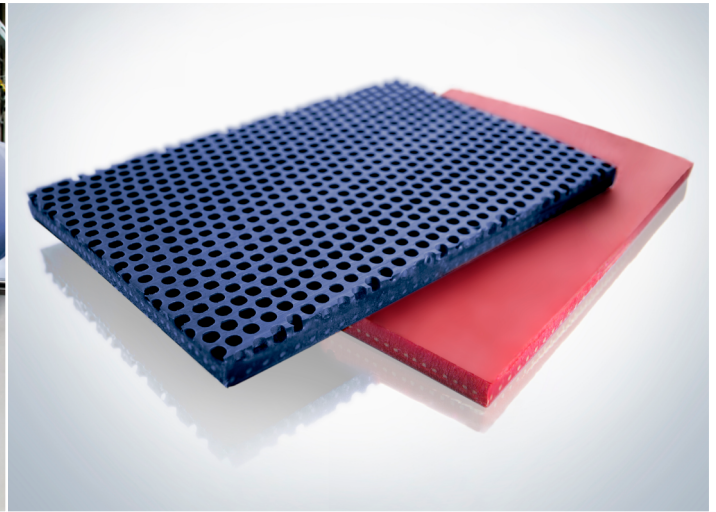
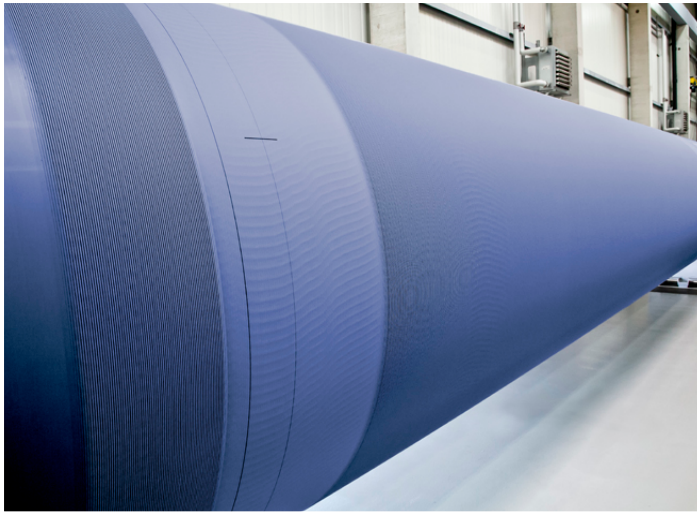
After reviewing the performance data of the poor-performing sleeves provided by the competitor and noting their issues with swelling and a 25% loss of the operating void volume, Voith experts recommended a return to the QualiFlex QRun shoe press sleeve, which is more dimensionally stable thanks to its innovative polyurethane construction.

Details

The polyurethane used in QualiFlex QRun sleeves offers improved elasticity, strength and stability – leading to fewer sheet breaks, reduced groove collapse through the nip and improved dewatering. These design characteristics allow the sleeve to operate with its void volume under load through its entire run life due to its polyurethane construction being more dimensionally stable.

Results

With the new QualiFlex QRun sleeve installed, the company noted a return to its previous operating speed and capabilities. With QRun sleeves on, **average run life went up to 180 days**, where the previous sleeve average only managed 115 days on average. The previous sleeve saw a 25% loss of void volume, while further testing showed **only a 5% loss for QRun** under similar conditions. The improved speed and performance from QualiFlex QRun secured an order from the mill for two additional sleeves.



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
- High 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.

"Returning to QRun after the run with the other company's sleeves made all the difference in the performance level of our paper machine. We are extremely pleased by the obvious quality of QRun."

— Mill spokesperson

Voith Group

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

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