

SUCCESS STORY: FLAT GLASS

MOVING YOUR WORLD



SUCCESS FOR FLAT GLASS CUSTOMER WITH FUCHS

Project Overview

A leading manufacturer of flat glass approached FUCHS for support in improving lubrication on-site and to increase production reliability and safety through the FUCHS best practice lubrication program.

The FUCHS team carried out a lubrication survey to understand and recommend various technical and reliability improvements that would meet customer demands and improve site operations. This also included the implementation of two FUCHS products - VITROLIS GB 24 and UNIFLOR 8172.

The Customer

Based in Yorkshire, UK, the customer is a subsidiary of one of the world's largest manufacturers of float, value-added and fabricated glass products and solutions for the construction and building industry.

The Problem

In recent years there has been an increase in demand from the construction industry for glass and therefore the customer had increased its production capacity to meet the market demands for a variety of flat glass products and solutions.

In order to increase production reliability and safety in line with production capacity, the customer had identified a number of areas where improvement could be made including;

- Reducing the number of lubricant vendors on site
- Rationalising the lubricants used on site
- Improving glass-cutting operations and end block lubrication
- Implementing quality lubrication training for both maintenance and production teams

Problem

- Large number of lubricant vendors
- Large quantity of different lubricant products used on site
- Need for improvement to cutting operations to keep up with an increase in demand

Solution

- Use of VITROLIS GB 24 - a premium oil that improves cutting operations
- More efficient and globally available UNIFLOR 8172 grease
- CENT system to support preventative maintenance practices
- Analysis training for employees to promote best practice solutions

Results

- FUCHS to become sole supplier of lubrication products, offering a wide range of lubricants for every application
- 50% reduction in lubricant grades used on site
- Reduced amount of deliveries, lowering delivery costs and improving carbon footprint

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The Solution

FUCHS can review lubrication needs through assessments built to find gaps in a lubrication program to help identify and tailor solutions. After an in-depth analysis and observation of the customer's lubrication operations the following improvements were recommended;

- VITROLIS GB 24 - a premium quality cutting oil that can significantly improve glass-cutting operations. VITROLIS GB 24 provides corrosion protection for machines and tools, lubricates and lengthens tool life, and evaporates after application leaving no residue
- Replacement of a critical grease on the end block with the more efficient and globally available UNIFLOR 8172
- Lubrication and oil analysis training for all maintenance and production team members, to increase awareness and effects of correct lubrication and to promote best practice solutions through preventative maintenance
- Use of the CENT system to support preventative maintenance practices and to reduce unplanned breakdowns. The CENT report "Traffic Lights" show immediately if machinery is in satisfactory condition and if not, what action is required.

Results & Conclusion

Technical support from FUCHS proved to be imperative in selecting more efficient lubricants for various applications. Following the recommendations made by the FUCHS team, the customer was able to;

- Reduce their lubricant supply base down to one supplier - FUCHS
- Reduce the number of lubricants grades on site by 50% by using the range of lubricants FUCHS can offer for every application
- Reduce deliveries and therefore lowering delivery costs and reducing CO2 emissions and their overall carbon footprint

FUCHS also implemented a series of training sessions that were able to increase the customer's teams awareness and knowledge of lubrication and lubrication best practice processes.

VITROLIS GB 24

A premium quality cutting oil for universal application in glass-cutting operations. VITROLIS GB 24 enables a soft and reliable break for curved and right-angled cuts. The subsequent machining of the edge is significantly improved as a result.

✓ Corrosion protection

Offers premium protection to machine and tools, preventing unplanned maintenance and operational downtime

✓ Chipping free breaking

Removes the potential for the glass to chip when being cut to size

✓ Lengthens tool life

Reduces tool wear rate, saving both time and replacement costs, thanks to superior lubrication qualities

✓ No residue

Evaporates after application, leaving no residue and resulting in better machine efficiency