

January 6, 2006

Quickfit steam trap stations help Acetate Products maintain uninterrupted production

Spirax Sarco Quickfit steam trap stations have helped reduce the impact from trap failure and maintenance costs for Acetate Products' first set of new production lines, encouraging the company to standardise on them for the latest new Filter Tow production lines at its Derby Site. Each new line includes five Spirax Sarco STS17 trap stations, making 20 in total.

The company's Derby plant operates around the clock and uses steam on its spinning machines to condition cellulose acetate fibres by stripping out acetone solvent. The resulting textile is used in cigarette filters.

According to Acetate Products, it takes about one hour to change a conventional steam trap for maintenance, requiring the spinning machine settings to be altered and production to be lost. "The cost of lost opportunities is around £300 per hour per machine," says an Acetate Products spokesman. "On top of this is the cost of the repair, the inconvenience of altering the machine set up and so on."

With the Spirax Sarco STS17, a steam trap can be changed so quickly that normal production is not affected.

The Spirax Sarco STS17 offers a compact solution complete with all necessary valves and ancillary equipment. This integrated approach simplifies the design and ordering process because the ancillaries would otherwise have to be specified separately. Commissioning is also quick and easy and all STS17 assemblies are factory-tested by Spirax Sarco before delivery.

The STS17 stations supplied to Acetate Products are manufactured in stainless steel for durability and have an appearance matching the hi-tech look of the production lines.

