



SERVICE & SOLUTIONS

OIL SIGHT GLASS & LEVEL MONITOR

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CARGILL SALT BEST PRACTICE



"..just walking by the equipment [machine operators] can tell very easily whether it has the correct level of oil, clarity, color, contamination, and if there is water in it..."

Edward Thueme
Cargill Salt

After learning about the Oil Sight Glass and Level Monitor (OSGL) at the Noria Machinery Lubrication Training and vendor reception, Edward Thueme of Cargill Salt St. Clair decided with his Lube Team Leader to install the OSGLs on a steam turbine in their facility. Ed also began installing the standard Oil Sight Glass on many of their pumps and larger gear boxes. Ed states, "I firmly believe that these water separators will be good for our facility, what with the nasty environment we have with steam, high humidity, leaking mechanical seals and piping nearby. I have already been given the go-ahead by both my Supervisor and the Maintenance Planner to pursue this agenda of having these special sight glasses on our equipment, for a constant viewing of the oil, condition, and presence of water. Thanks again, I firmly believe your products are going to help us in this salt producing plant, where at times we have water problems, and help us rid the equipment of water before it can do any damage."

Ed continues to sing the praises of the Oil Sight Glass and Level Monitor after experiencing how well they compliment Cargill's existing lubrication management program. After installation of the OSGL on a piece of equipment, he makes it a point to talk with the Departmental Supervisor or Machine Operator to explain "the virtues and benefits to him, his department, and our plant. How just walking by the equipment he can tell very easily whether it

has the correct level of oil, clarity, color, contamination, and if there is water in it, which he can purge out immediately before it does any damage - plus the added benefits of the breather equalizing the pressure within the gearbox and sight glass. The fact that the breather has a 2 micron filter just adds icing to the cake. I make sure they are aware that the OSGL is a multi-function tool that serves 5-6 functions for us and greatly improves not only our Maintenance Reliability, but also is within our Lubrication Best Practices as well."



An Esco Oil Sight Glass & Level Monitor installed on a steam turbine at the Cargill Salt facility, St. Clair



An OSGL installed on a bearing housing at Cargill Salt.

In Cargill's large facilities, it is necessary to obtain proper oil level on gearboxes that are in difficult to see and hard to reach places. Ed worked with his Lube Team Leader to install an Oil Sight Glass and Level Monitor "on a large Falk Gearbox that is on a screw conveyor mounted about 15 feet in the air. With the OSGL on it, you can see everything while standing on the floor below." The red and green O-rings used to mark running and idle oil levels are easy to see from some distance.



Great visibility from the floor: an Oil Sight Glass & Level Monitor installed 15' above the viewer.

Outside in the cold Michigan winter, equipment must be resilient to the elements. At Cargill, the Oil Sight Glass and Level Monitor has proven to withstand the harsh temperatures. Made of strong, impact resistant acrylic, there is no risk of breakage as long as the OSGL doesn't completely fill with water in freezing temperatures. "One nice thing about the OSGL is that it gives you the benefits of being able to see your lubricant and the condition of it, like if made of glass, while actually it's acrylic and will not shatter nor have the same food safety consequences that glass would have. Most other sight glasses are at least partially constructed of glass, which we are very sensitive to in a food plant, and with yours being constructed from acrylic, it is a big plus for us."



Exposure to cold weather is not a problem for the OSGL, seen here on a large gearbox.

The OSGL is a useful tool for the food industry by providing an easy way to gauge oil level and drain water, while complying with safety regulations. Contact Esco today to learn more about how the OSG product line can compliment your lubrication program.

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