



Application Note

Improving Plastics Pellet Inventory Management On Batching and Blending

Problem:

Plastic mix and blend products are stored in hoppers used on the process line. Keeping accurate level or weight information is critical to the process. If the vessels run empty, someone is pulled off other jobs to check the levels. Inventory is checked regularly to maintain the levels. If the usage calculation is incorrect, the operator waits until the level drops before switching to another hopper. If the level drops below the feed line, the mix will not have the proper materials.

Solution:

Continuous weight information using KM's ultra-wave™ ultrasonics and Sonocell/ultra-cel/™ transducers on the storage hoppers. Information can be displayed locally, transmitted to PLC/PC control systems using KM digital interfaces, or accessed via the internet using a KM ultra-wave™ ORB-enabled system.

Benefits:

- Repeatable, continuous level readings in which to base current inventory and material demands. Track vessel space to determine room for a load, or enough material is on-hand for production.
- Non-contact eliminates material contamination risks.
- Workers not climbing tall vessels, decreasing workers comp and accident claims.
- Material not exposed to weather because the tank does not need to be opened to measure inventory and eliminates risk of dropping something into the tank.
- Easy to retrofit on existing vessels saving installation costs compared to the retrofit costs for installing load cells.
- ultra-cel/™ laser-like beam pattern shoots through vessel obstructions, blend tubes, etc., for simple installation.
- ultra-wave™ point level input interlocks KM action-probe™ point level devices for the ultimate in fail-safe protection.

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