



Customer : AB InBev
Product group : Industrial Hoses and Accessories
Market : Food and pharma
Application : Metal hose with silicon sleeve

ERIKS DEVELOPS HOSE WITH SILICON SLEEVE AND TRAY-CLAMP COUPLING

Sustainable hose satisfies the highest hygienic standards and saves costs



CUSTOMER PROFILE

AB InBev Nederland is part of the listed AB InBev, which has a portfolio of almost 300 brands in more than 130 countries. This makes it the world's biggest brewery. In the Netherlands, AB InBev sells strong local and international brands such as Jupiler, Hertog Jan, Dommelsch, Beck's, Leffe and Hoegaarden.

CHALLENGE

AB InBev used a Paguag hose with formed couplings which are always amortised within three months because of exterior cleaning. The hose's external sleeve quickly started to crack and contained bacteria-sensitive scale after cleaning. Moreover, torsion occurred because the filler heads were not located directly under the kegs.

AB InBev tried using a metal hose as alternative, but this was also insufficient. Contamination reoccurred on the outside of the hose; this time because of the metal braiding. ERIKS was engaged to develop a sustainable solution. The briefing included various strict guidelines in connection with hygiene standards. The hose should not get kinks and should be suitable for low temperatures and chemical substances such as cleaning products. The hose must also be fitted with a tray-clamp coupling.

SOLUTION

Following intensive research AB InBev and ERIKS decided to retain the stainless steel hose with metal braiding. This is because this hose is very flexible and is also resistant to cleaning agents. The hose was fitted with a silicon sleeve. The sleeve and a tray-clamp coupling to attach the hose correctly mean that the outside of the hose is now also resistant to bacterial growth, making it suitable for sanitary environments. Moreover, the hose has a longer life and therefore offers considerable cost savings.

To meet all hygiene regulations it was decided to connect two stainless steel hoses to the filling machine, one for beer and one for carbon dioxide.

OTHER BENEFITS

- Cost reduction
- Hose satisfies hygiene regulations even more
- The chosen solution will now be used on all filling machines.