M-clean[™] System Installation in a Wood Fiber Plant

Challenge

A European manufacturer of wood fiber insulation boards was using a continuous press system with upper and lower conveying fabrics. They struggled to keep the fabrics clean with the OEM traversing shower equipment. The fabrics became dirty and plugged leading to reduced airflow through the fabric. This caused product formation defects and imperfections in the surface finish of the product.

In addition to internal and external quality rejects, the customer lived with short production runs, frequent fabric changes, and increased downtime to allow for manual fabric cleaning.

Solution

Kadant installed two M-clean systems with high-pressure traversing showers and an integrated vacuum; one on each of the top and bottom fabrics. The M-clean system was customized with a proprietary cleaning head to optimize contaminant removal.

Results

Both M-clean systems effectively clean the fabrics continuously. Production is no longer limited by how long the fabrics can stay clean. The surface finish of the products coming off the line has dramatically improved.

The customer is considering custom imprinting and branding on their product which was previously impossible. According to the plant manager, "We don't know how we used to manufacture before installing the M-clean system from Kadant."

Highlights

- Optimized contaminant removal.
- Continuously clean fabrics during production.
- The surface finish of the final product has drastically improved.



