



Steel Parts Maker Cuts Reject Rate, Shipping Costs With Daubrite® Emitters

Imagine a wafer-thin, golf ball-size piece of steel making a month-long trip from Kentucky to Mexico via truck and railcar. The steel parts endure temperature swings, high humidity and unwanted moisture during the trip. Much of it arrives rusted.

As a result, the manufacturer saw unacceptably high reject rates on shipments of its motor laminations. They sought help from Dave Neuer of NEUTECH Packaging Systems to solve its expensive corrosion problem.

Neuer first learned that they were trying to prevent corrosion by using moisture-absorbing desiccants. Packers used eight desiccants per bin of parts.

“They were just tossing them into the returnable bins, so my first question was, ‘how do you know the desiccants don’t already have moisture in them?’” Neuer says. “If so, it would be just like tossing a wet sponge onto a steel part. It was a valid question, because they also reused desiccants at times, drying them out to save money.”

After reviewing the packaging and shipping process with the quality control team, it was decided to run a joint test program. The customer would compare its current desiccant program with a new style of Daubrite® VCI emitters from anti-corrosion packaging specialist Daubert Cromwell of Alsip, IL.

Daubert Cromwell emitters are small, round, flat disks saturated with a proprietary corrosion inhibitor formulation. They are designed for use inside package environments and enclosures—wherever rust could attack and damage metals. Each one emits a protective vapor that forms an invisible layer on metal surfaces to prevent moisture, salt, dirt and oxygen from depositing on the metal and causing corrosion. Each disk protects 5 cubic feet of enclosed space. The protection is dry, clean, safe, and economical.

Neuer and Daubert Cromwell engineers worked together to determine that each shipping bin only needed 2 emitters – not 8 desiccants -- to prevent corrosion. They tested the theory on a series of Kentucky-to-Mexico runs using desiccants, Daubrite VCI emitters, and nothing at all. The results were clear.

“The bins containing just 2 Daubert Cromwell emitters had the best results,” says Neuer. “Best of all, we determined that shipping steel laminations with the Daubrite VCI emitters would save the company \$.80 per load, or \$120 per day. That works out to \$30,000 a year compared to the old way they shipped. And that doesn’t include the savings from fewer laminations that have to be thrown away.”

Now the company uses Daubrite emitters in about 150 pallets each day. The new cost-saving corrosion solution is being phased in elsewhere within the company as well.

Neuer takes pride in his company’s innovative approach to coming up with better and more cost-effective solutions to packaging and shipping problems for his customers. He also cites the receptive staff at Daubert Cromwell as key to successfully changing the way his customer ships steel parts.

“We are always looking at new applications and changing the rules in order to find a better way to get things done. We’re happy to be associated with a company who shares that philosophy.”

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