



Almaplex[®] Ultra-Syn Lubricant (1299)

Harborlite Corporation – Vicksburg, Mich.

Hammer Mill

- Saved more than \$40,000 in bearing replacements
- Reduced amperage

Customer Profile

Harborlite Corporation processes high quality volcanic glass into perlite insulating bubbles. The process uses high heat with a special technique that creates the non flammable low cost insulating mineral.

Application

Harborlite uses their own design hammer mill, 25 hp motor with belt drive for milling of their product.

Challenge

Heat and dirt combined to create a harsh environment that caused frequent bearing replacement. They were losing the hammer mill shaft bearings about every four or five days on the average with some failures in 24 hours of operation. The bearings are being operated at an rpm that is at or above the maximum allowable rpm when using grease as a lubricant. They had tried most commercial grade lubricants, including synthetics and specialty company greases, all with similar dismal results.

LE Solution

LE's Almaplex[®] Ultra-Syn Lubricant (1299), which is a full synthetic, specially formulated Aluminum Complex grease. Almaplex 1299 is made with a special blend of 100 percent synthetic base fluids optimized to the ISO 460 viscosity grade range for excellent performance under extreme equipment operating conditions. It also contains Almasol[®], LE's exclusive wear-reducing additive.



Results

Harborlite operates this hammer mill on an as needed basis. There are times when it is needed constantly. Using Almaplex 1299, it is now always available should they need it. No more weekend repair jobs. This reduces the required overtime and the associated costs needed to repair the bearings .



The most important and significant savings is the reduction in bearing replacement. Harborlite went from weekly replacements to no replacements in more than four months of operation. This is a savings of more than \$40,000 in parts and labor costs alone. They currently regrease once weekly and the grease still looks good. All other greases would be hard carbon and solid residue in a week's time.

An unexpected benefit with using Almaplex 1299 is an amperage reduction of more than 3.5 amps, observed during the initial eight week trial. It has leveled off at four amps less than with the previous lubricant. This would mean a savings of almost \$600 if the unit runs 2,400 hours per year.

Rich Rocho, maintenance manager, states, "Our LE consultant stuck with us until she found a solution to our problem. Almaplex 1299 is a really good product. We have tried them all and it is the only one that works."

Thank you to Rich Rocho, maintenance manager, and to Barbie Graham, LE lubrication consultant (pictured), for providing the information used in this report.



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Based on actual user experience. Individual results may vary. Not intended to supersede manufacturer specifications.

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