



Latex into Bitumen

Location	UK	Hydra-Cell model	G25XKSGHFEHB
Type of application	Latex into Bitumen	Flow rate	2 - 20 l/min (0.5 - 5.3 gpm)
Liquid	Latex	Pressure	10 Bar (145 psi)

Application details

Bituchem Building Products is part of the Bituchem Group of companies based in Gloucestershire, UK. Its building division manufactures a range of products which help protect and increase the longevity of highway surfaces and by adding Latex into these products, both quality and consistency can be enhanced.

Latex is in the form of a complex but stable emulsion, consisting of micro-particles contained in an aqueous medium which presents two main challenges to any pumping process:

- Firstly, Latex emulsions are extremely shear-sensitive and require pumps that can handle it gently and not impart any shearing.
- Secondly, any contact with air will further polymerise the latex, causing issues for pumps with dynamic seals.

The customer's requirement was for a pump to reliably handle the 600cPs Latex at varying flow rates. One of Wanner International's UK Distributors, Michael Smith Engineers was approached for a solution and, given their knowledge, offered Hydra-Cell as a solution.

Commenting on how the Hydra-Cell seal-less pump has performed, John Shirley, Engineering Manager at Bituchem said: "We are very aware of the issues when pumping Latex; thanks to Michael Smith Engineers' understanding of the challenges, and recommending the most suitable type of pump, our production process has been running perfectly".

Advantages of Hydra-Cell pump on this application

Hydra-Cell's seal-less design has the ability to:

- Provide a 100% contained solution, stopping the Latex being contaminated with air, causing polymerisation.
- · Reliably handle extremely shear-sensitive liquids.

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