

Customer Testimonial



Monolec® Multiplex Lubricant (4622)

ELG Metals, Inc. – Portvue / McKeesport, Pa.

Liebherr Cranes

- Saved \$2,800 a month in pin replacements
- Reduced grease consumption from 4 pails weekly to one half pail a week
- Extended grease intervals from every 2 days to once a week

Customer Profile

ELG Metals is one of the leading companies in the U.S. for the recycling of stainless steel and special alloys. ELG has seven steel processing facilities strategically located around the U.S. to service many domestic and international clients.

The Portvue/McKeesport, Pennsylvania facility is located 12 miles southeast of Pittsburgh. The 27 acre site processes bulk stainless steel as well as all related nickel-chrome, nickel-chrome-molybdenum alloys, nickel-copper, nickel-cobalt, tool steel, tungsten carbide and titanium products. The Portvue/McKeesport plant is the largest ELG facility in the U.S. with 30 hourly production personnel.

Application

ELG Metals use four Liebherr cranes; one model 932, two model 934 and one model 904 to sort and move various types of scrap throughout the yard.

Challenge

While using Citgo Lithoplex EP 2 grease, the open and close pins on the crane grappling type scrap buckets seemed to always be dry and needed regreasing frequently, every two days. The pins were being replaced at the rate of 20 pins per month. Often the pins would snap in half causing crane downtime. Four 5-gallon pails of grease were used weekly. The cranes themselves were very dirty because of the commercial grade grease squirting out upon impact and running down over the sides of the cranes.



Plant entrance to ELG Metals



One of the model 934 Liebherr cranes used to sort scrap metals

LE Solution

Larry Boyle, LE lubrication consultant, recommended Monolec® Multiplex Lubricant (4622), which is a high quality, EP 2 lithium complex grease that meets the requirements of the NLGI GC-LB specification. It has excellent low temperature pumpability, good mechanical stability, a high dropping point, corrosion resistance and extreme pressure performance.

Results

The open and close pins cost \$140 each. Since using Monolec 4622, ELG has not lost a single pin. Since May of 2008 they have saved \$2,800 a month or \$28,000 so far in pin replacements. Grease consumption has been reduced



from four pails weekly to one half a pail weekly. Regreasing intervals of the cranes were extended from every two days to once weekly with Monolec 4622. Needless to say, the pins are not dry upon relubrication.

The cranes are much cleaner because the Monolec 4622 is staying in place. A lot of labor savings over the last ten months have also been realized.

Dan Bendel, lead mechanic stated, "The LE product costs more per pound of grease, but 4622 is a lot cheaper in the not-so-long run. Cheaper to buy the grease than all the parts and live with the downtime."

Other Products Used

- Monolec® Gear Lubricant (703) – plant gearboxes and crane differentials

Thank you to Dan Ryan, mechanic, Dan Bendel, lead mechanic, and to Larry Boyle, LE lubrication consultant (pictured), for providing the information used in this report.



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