CENTRIFUGAL SCREENER UPS POLYMER CONCRETE PRODUCTION

Output of 35- to 75-lb. bags of polymer concrete at Castek, Inc. jumped 75 percent after replacing a rectangular vibrating screen with a centrifugal sifter to remove lumps arising when sand-silica powder is sprayed with liquid plasticizer. Previously, a 1-ft. x 2-ft. rectangular vibrating screen sifted at a rate of 4,000 lb. per hour. Frequent screen blinding required continual scraping and pushing the soft lumps of semi-sticky powder through the screen. With disconcerting regularity, screens failed, the manufacturer notes.

Fully enclosed to prevent dusting, the Kason Centrifugal Screener sifts 4,000 lb. in 12 minutes. As an operator is no longer needed to tend the screener, further assistance is available for a second operator in loading, unloading and verifying bag weights at the pneumatic bagger, which is capable of bagging a 4,000-lb. batch in 15 minutes.

The sifter sits on a narrow 20-ft.-high mezzanine below a 20-ft.-high, 7000-lb.-capacity pneumatic blender and above a surge tank of the same dimensions that feeds the Chantland bagger at ground level. Lumps of powder as large as 2-in. form in the pneumatic blender as liquid plasticizer is sprayed into the mixture of fine and abrasive silica sand. The free-flowing, friable granules are abrasive, with uneven shaped particles ranging in size from fine to 3/4-inch. Bulk density is 100-lb./cu. ft., angle of repose 60 percent.

The powder flows from the bottom of the blender through a boot and 8-in., slide-gate valve into the centrifugal sifter. After the operator controls flow by adjusting the slide-gate valve, he or she can leave the sifter untended.

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