

PUMP SOLVES PIE-FILLING PROBLEM

Every Lancashire pie-lover knows Poole's of Wigan. Famous for their pies, they have several of their own shops and also supply retail food chains such as Asda and Co-op.

They cook all the fillings themselves and are proud of their range which includes chicken and mushroom, chunky steak, meat and potato, vegetable, rhubarb and apple. Part of this process involves transferring these different fillings from small Eurobins into the hopper of the spot depositor, which has to be done very carefully to avoid damage and loss of visual appeal. This was a laborious manual process using smaller intermediate containers, which resulted in significant waste and potential hygiene problems.

Chief Engineer Iain Cairns considered installing a pump, but knew this would not be practical without the development of a tailor-made system, so he discussed the problem with CT Technical Products, UK distributors for several leading makers of industrial pumps.



The Murzan Drum Unloading System (DUS) was installed, fitted for the jug-shaped Eurobins. It consists of a T-316L stainless steel, double-suction sanitary Murzan diaphragm pump mounted on a food-grade plastic base-plate and scraper ring which follows the product down the drum as it is emptied. The pump and base are supported by a frame and the system is equipped with air cylinders which lift the pump and base out of the drum when it is empty. It can be fitted to most tapered or straight-sided drums. The base-plate spreads the product evenly and the pump's two inlets ensure complete unloading in a totally enclosed operation.

Iain Cairns comments. *"The system is very efficient and will empty a Eurobin in under 3 minutes. It's simple to operate and very easy to handle. Cleaning is straightforward and quick – we just pump the system through with water and a de-greaser. It's completely sanitary o hygiene is not a problem and it handles all the fillings without affecting their consistency or appearance, which is very important to us in maintaining the high quality of our pies."*

The DUS looks set to become the complete answer to the fast, hygienic and waste-free unloading of viscous substances such as vaseline, tomato paste or peanut butter. and it will handle fragile foodstuffs containing particulates with no loss of integrity. Other applications include mashed potato, puddings, mayonnaise or, of course, pie fillings and a variety of pharmaceuticals and cosmetics such as face creams, toothpastes and ointments.