

CASE STUDY #17

PRECISION AIRCONVEY HELPS GLOBAL INSURANCE COMPANY ELIMINATE HAZARDOUS DUST FROM ITS PRINT-TO-MAIL OPERATION



A renowned healthcare and insurance company was at the forefront of using technology to automate and speed production at its print-to-mail facility. The facility processed more than 500,000 statements and checks per day, 24/7 and was a model “output distribution center.” But this high volume of output also created a high volume of scrap paper waste in the form of edge trim from inserters, bulk quantities of startup waste and other paper waste. Despite using the most advanced waste handling system known to the industry, the scrap paper was choking the system with dust. The dust was disturbing the printers and inserters, increasing maintenance costs and causing costly line stoppages. In an otherwise pristine, state-of-the-art facility, this was unacceptable. The waste handling system also required full-time personnel to manually wheel overflowing disposal carts through the facility to a disposal area, leaving a trail of scattered paper and dust in its wake. The dust, along

with the machine’s incessant clamor, also created safety concerns. “Here was this magnificent, lean operation that was automated at every step — until it came time to handle the paper waste,” explains Larry Green, president of Precision AirConvey Corp. (PAC), Newark, Del. “And that last step had become a cost and a headache.” PAC specializes in the design, manufacturing and installation of high production trim and waste handling systems that have been proven effective in continuous operation at more than 1,000 installations in converting, printing, label manufacturing and other facilities.

Green and his team of engineers devised a system to automate the entire scrap handling function. Eliminating the dusty, noisy, costly existing system, the PAC automated system captures the continuous edge trim at 16 different inserters located in two different rooms, pulls the trim under the flooring, cuts it into confetti and efficiently pipes it into a separate room – all without a sound - where the densified waste is fed directly into a baler. The paper bales are recycled, the air is exhausted outside and the dust is collected safely in a single place. Plus, by clearing away the bulky, old system, the low profile PAC system actually created usable floor space. Most importantly, the new PAC system has eliminated the dust problem and its associated line downtime, quieted the noise and restored the facility to its bright, pristine environment.



To automatically deal with large volumes of startup and other paper waste, PAC designed and provided this automated document destruction system. After loading onto the belt conveyor, the system shreds, transports and bales it with virtually no human interaction.