



The People • The Technology • The Solution

20 YEARS OF SILO DISCHARGE AND STILL GOING STRONG

HP Foods is the manufacturer of HP Sauce, one of the best known brands in the UK food sector. In 2005 the Company became part of the Heinz Group.

Back in 1985 HP Foods were seeking to reliably discharge sugar from an external silo containing 60 tonnes. After considering a number of other methods of discharge, the Company decided to install a Matcon Silo Discharger Valve which provided three functions in one machine:-

- ∞ Discharger & Bridge Breaker;
- ∞ Valve
- ∞ Metering Device

This Valve was supplied on the understanding that it would provide a consistent & controlled feed of the sugar. If the sugar became lumpy, the powerful lifting action of the internal cone combined with the internal vibration was expected to break down the lumps & still provide discharge.

At that time the Matcon Discharger Valve only had a short history dating back to 1983. Most machines, working in this type of aggressive environment require constant maintenance & regular service work to ensure that they work satisfactory. With only 2 years history it was uncertain how much maintenance the Matcon equipment would require. Nevertheless HP made their decision based on this 2 year track record and the confidence they had in the inherent simplicity of the system.

20 years on from its original installation, the Matcon Silo Discharger Valve is still going strong. Over this time it has never broken down and had planned maintenance carried out only on two occasions.

From the time it first went into service the Matcon Discharge Valve worked without fail for 14 years until 1999 when it was deemed prudent to carry out some preventive maintenance, refurbishment and replacement of wear parts. The Valve was quickly put back into service & continued to operate without further maintenance for a further 5 years. In 2004 a failure in a different part of the process provided another opportunity to replace some of the potential wear parts of the Matcon - purely as a precautionary measure.



In for a service after 14 years

The Matcon Silo Discharger Valve is well engineered and robust enough to stand the test of time even in the most arduous of applications under heavy load. When a product works this well there is no reason to change it which is why we have not altered the basic design of this product since it was first developed.

The HP Foods story is by no means unique. Most of Matcon's customers have similar experiences with their Matcon equipment. Once the equipment is installed it is often forgotten about for years with spare parts & downtime kept to a minimum.

Matcon is proud to be associated with HP Foods over the last 20 years and look forward to continuing the association over the next 20 - after which our Silo Discharger Valve must surely retire? Or not.....!!!!!!!

