

Incompatible materials and design cause failure at potato processing facility.

Application:

Potato processing facilities manufacture many different products for human and animal consumption. Their processes use heat, steam, and oils to convert raw potatoes into products such as chips, flakes, and pellets. In these harsh conditions, expansion joint failures may occur if they are not built with materials that are compatible with the heat or chemicals they are exposed to.



Problem:

Holz received a call from a distributor asking about the availability of an expansion joint that was needed in a hurry. They said that one of their customers replaced a joint 48 hours earlier and it was already starting to fail. During inspection, the newly installed joint looked like it was delaminating and the rubber was softening due to heat or chemical attack. Also, the system was exposed to significant vacuum pressure that caused the joint to collapse.

Solution:

Due to the high temperatures and chemicals in these conditions, Holz recommended their HRPL7 material as an ideal choice. The HRPL7 is rated for high temperatures in wet locations and is rated excellent for resistance to the chemicals used at this facility. At last report, the customer was very happy with the performance of this product and will use it in other applications in the future.