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CASE STUDY

APPVION, INC.
West Carrollton, OH

PAPER COMPANY ELEVATES OVERHEAD CRANE SAFETY AND OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE WITH KONECRANES' ASSISTANCE

Appvion, Inc. is headquartered in Appleton, Wisconsin and operates several manufacturing facilities in the U.S. including a thermal paper manufacturing site in West Carrollton, Ohio.

NO TIME FOR CRANE PROBLEMS

With eight 30-ton overhead production cranes running 24/7, Appvion's West Carrollton plant does not have time for interruptions due to crane issues. Appvion uses the cranes to handle large rolls of paper and to support maintenance activities.

Proper crane operation and safety gained greater attention when the West Carrollton facility converted in 2012 from a paper mill/coating operation to a coating plant only.

This change brought with it increased reliance on crane performance and reliability as well as new assignments and responsibilities for many plant employees.

HEIGHTENING THE SAFETY FOCUS

Appvion's plant manager, Alan Newbright, asked David Spielberger of Konecranes to develop a more rigorous inspection and training program to improve crane performance and reliability—and support Appvion's safety focus.

Spielberger, who joined Konecranes in 1992, has been Konecranes' point person at Appvion since 2010. He works alongside the West Carrollton plant team and contributes to the plant success in many ways, Newbright said.

He coordinates and leads individualized, in-depth crane operation and safety training for the plant team to maximize operational performance, reliability and safety. The training and pre-use inspection procedures he developed for Appvion have increased employees' knowledge of crane operation and their ability to identify and address crane-related issues before they develop into problems that could impact safety or plant operations.

THE TURNAROUND

Newbright said, "David's dedication, safety ethic and work with the plant team have turned the situation in the plant around 180 degrees from undesirable issues we used to encounter."

In fact, the facility experienced no crane breakdowns and no lost time due to crane problems in 2014. Crane performance in 2015 continues to be strong, meeting the high expectations of the plant team, Newbright added.

"David and his Konecranes team have been a huge contributor to the success at the Appvion West Carrollton plant in the area of crane safety," Newbright said. "At Appvion, we value safety and we commit to ourselves, each other and our families to make safety a part of everything we do."

He continued, "Our mantra is 'Believe in Zero,' which means zero injuries, every day, for everyone. We can all expect to work safe and avoid injury every minute of every day. The Konecranes team supports that journey."

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