

IDEAS & APPLICATIONS



HYGROSCOPIC BREATHERS FOR HYDRAULIC RESERVOIRS INCLUDE COLOR-CHANGE VISUAL INDICATORS THAT SIGNAL WHEN DESICCANT IS SATURATED.

Breathers on the ground help to keep 'em flying

Major airlines strive to avoid two things: bankruptcy and customer dissatisfaction. To that end, some of the market leaders have taken steps to eliminate one of the leading causes of passenger irritation: flight delays. Cause of delays, for both departures and arrivals, are not limited to airplane trouble. Problems with ground support equipment—from aircraft maintenance to cargo loaders to food delivery vehicles—can play havoc with airport travel schedules.

Nordco, Bloomfield, Conn., designs, manufactures, upgrades, and repairs all types of ground support equipment including specialty vehicles designed for aircraft maintenance, lavatory and fresh water service, cargo and belt loaders, and commissary and cabin services. In business since 1954, Nordco has found that many ground support equipment failures can be attributed to problems in the hydraulic system. Because much of this equipment is stored and operates outdoors, the combination of water in hydraulic reservoirs and sub-freezing temperatures can bring things to a halt.

That was the situation United Airlines faced several winters ago, when equipment failure caused by bitter-cold weather shut down its Chicago terminal. Cargo loaders (which were not made by Nordco) failed when moisture trapped in the hydraulic lines froze in the cold weather. This costly episode made United particularly aware of the importance of fluid maintenance.

When United consulted with Nordco,

which provides the carrier with a full line of ground support equipment, they were introduced to Des-Case hygroscopic breathers distributed by Humidial Corp., of Colton, Ca. Nordco installs these components on their hydraulic tanks because these breathers combine a woven-polyester fabric that filters particles as small as 3 micrometers with silica gel desiccant drying agent to remove water vapor from incoming air. The drying agent actually backflushes itself when dry air leaves the tank through the breather, extending the period before replacement is needed. Along with eliminating freeze-up problems, water removal also cuts down on rust and sludge formation.

Nordco installs Des-Case breathers on all United equipment, and recommends it to its other airline customers. The product has become part of the Nordco's quality lifetime value program, designed to provide customers with long-term benefits. They have found it to be very cost-effective over the life of the equipment.

DES-CASETM
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DES-CASE CORPORATION

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