AUTOMATIC WASHING DEVICE FOR BLANKET CYLINDERS OF OFFSET MACHINES

The blankets of offset machines inevitably need to be cleaned because of the impurities left by the paper and ink and, periodically, the operator has to stop the machine and perform this task manually. The operation causes a loss of about 10% of production, and risks for the operator who comes into contact with moving parts and solvent vapours, as well as environmental damage due to the excessive quantity of solvent generally used.

The ideal solution is for washing to be completely automatic. The **FAG LCC** system allows: a reduction of washing time by approximately 80%, as more than one group can be washed at a time, a reduction of wasted time because washing can be carried out more frequently, an improvement in the quality and therefore the investment is returned in a short period (on average, one year).

Using the **FAG LCC** system, solvent vapours are reduced thanks to lower requirements of liquid and consequently, greater safety for the operator and greater respect for the environment.

**HOW THE FAG LCC SYSTEM WORKS**

The washing group is inserted between two supports, left and right, mounted in proximity of each rubber roller and fixed to the machine shoulder. Each group is composed of: a shaft on which the cleaning blanket is wound, a conveyor system to collect the used blanket on a second shaft, a presser element and nozzles for dosing the liquid. The entire group can be easily extracted from the supports for changing the blanket or the rubber. It is linked to the fixed part by means of a special connector which includes the piping to supply the washing liquid and the pneumatic circuit.
The dosing of the liquid, the advance of the blanket and the cleaning pressure are totally automated and controlled by a microprocessor.

A stainless steel tank, composed of two separate chambers, contains the water and detergent which are drawn up by two pumps for each printing element. This way the washing liquid can be mixed according to the distance from the element.

Washing can be made individually or simultaneously on all elements and cleaning of the rubber is ensured in consideration of three variables:

1. Quantity of detergent
2. Time of one washing cycle
3. Number of cycles

The programs are selected by means of an operator interface touch-screen situated on the machine control bench.

After a certain number of washing cycles, which varies from machine to machine, the blanket in the washing unit becomes exhausted and has to be replaced. For this purpose, the FAG LCC system is provided with an external winding unit on which to prepare the replacement blanket.

**TECHNICAL FEATURES**

- Electric supply: 220 V – 6A
- Pneumatic supply with dry filtered air at 6 Bar
- Machine signals: speed, pressures, unwinder, heater, washing speed
- Consumable products: Blanket - Du Pont “Sontara Printmaster”
- Detergent - Archem “AP WASH 60”
- or Graphokem “Superklin PC 086”