

# ChemTreat Conveyor Lubricant Application

## Lower water consumption following wet lubricant application at stainless steel conveyor

### Background

A bottling plant in Monterrey, Mexico was experiencing false bottle rejection because of the high level of foam formation in glass bottles caused by the conveyor lubricant, resulting in increased production cost and lost revenue. They installed a soft water rinse station to address the problem which increased water usage by 12.9 m<sup>3</sup> per month. Additionally, some areas of the conveyor line were experiencing falling bottles because of the poor lubricity that the competitor's lubricant provided. The average friction coefficient of the competitor's lubricant was 0.18, with some instances exceeding 0.2.

Two full-time employees per shift were required to pick up fallen bottles. The conveyor was cleaned once per week for more than eight hours and presented biological growth at the end of the week.

### Solution

ChemTreat implemented a wet line lubricant technology that consumed less water, provided sanitation, and reduced the friction coefficient values.

ChemTreat also employed its low foam product to mitigate the issue with bottle false rejection on the UV inspector equipment.

### Results

ChemTreat helped the customer reduce water consumption by 51 percent at the line and eliminated the soft water consumption needed to wash bottles before the UV inspector. False bottle rejection was reduced by 46 percent using ChemTreat's low foam technology, allowing the two full-time employees designated to pick up bottles to be redeployed elsewhere. The friction coefficient using ChemTreat's line lubricant averaged 0.14.

Conveyor cleaning was reduced from weekly to once every two weeks, providing an additional 16 hours per month for increased production or allowing reduced personnel to achieve the same production goal.

**These improvements resulted in customer savings of approximately \$100,000 USD.**

