

The Challenge

A major manufacturer of soy/almond milk and coffee creamers, with plants located across the United States, maintains high sterilization practices to accommodate the health requirements for producing extended shelf life items. It requires aseptic seat valves like the ARC—and associated service kits—for beverage processing that can withstand the harsh, high-temperature conditions of an aseptic operating environment. When its previous service kits were wearing out with unacceptable frequency, and with run times and cost efficiency suffering as a result, the company was in need of an alternative to its current kits and undermined profit margin.

The Solution

Flowtrend, Inc. reached out to the customer, and after assessing its needs and objectives, furnished it with seat valves from its FT ARC series. The valves—which feature 2-3 port stop valves and 3-5 port divert valves, an open yoke with a visible stem coupler, and a polished surface that resists bacteria buildup and is highly cleanable—are also equipped with a PTFE diaphragm. This diaphragm is a critical component providing secondary sealing that keeps beverages in production from contacting atmosphere, and is designed to resist residue buildup on product contact surfaces. Because the diaphragms of ARC seat valves can be especially vulnerable to deterioration that eventually compromises performance, Flowtrend proactively sought and found a solution in the diaphragm manufacturing process that improved durability, operating life, and overall value.

The Result

Initial test runs by the customer with its new Flowtrend equipment proved remarkably successful, with a 250% increase in the duration of run times. Beyond the cost savings realized by being able to use the same kits longer, the customer is experiencing greater overall product yields and profitability. Instead of losing an entire batch every time a service kit inevitably fails and exposes the product to atmosphere, the customer is able to operate via a planned shutdown schedule made possible by the reliable performance of its Flowtrend valves.



Flowtrend ARC valve

Summary

A major manufacturer of soy/almond milk and coffee creamers with plants nationwide, was dissatisfied with its previous ARC sanitary seat valves and service kits used for beverage processing. The harsh high temperatures of its aseptic operating environment were contributing to service kits wearing out with unacceptable frequency, resulting in higher costs and lower profits. Flowtrend contacted the customer with an alternative solution, furnishing its FT ARC series of sanitary seat valves. By improving the durability, operating life, and overall value of the valve diaphragms that provide secondary sealing and keep beverage products from contacting atmosphere, Flowtrend was able to extend equipment run times by 250%. In addition, the customer no longer has to wait for kits to inevitably fail, and lose an entire batch of product every time—instead operating via a planned shutdown schedule made possible by the reliability of its Flowtrend valves.