



Major Food Manufacturer Wrapper Line

Industry Issue/Challenge

A major food manufacturer's facility in Mt. Sterling, KY operates 21 high-speed wrapper lines—each a critical component in a high-output production process. Approximately 12 years ago, the plant trialed a non-OEM chain that failed prematurely, reinforcing reliance on the incumbent OEM chain brand. While dependable, these chains required replacement every six months, contributing to costly downtime and maintenance cycles.

In 2023, the company's maintenance division contacted iwis to revisit the application challenge. The maintenance team remained loyal to incumbent components but was willing to sample a new solution given the frequency of replacements and the need for improved cost efficiency.

Application

The wrapper lines are used to package ready-to-eat food products at high speeds, requiring durable, food-grade chain systems with specialty attachments. The existing system used OEM 208B-1 chain with custom D3 attachments but was only achieving a six-month lifespan under demanding, continuous operation.



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Product Solution

iwis engineered a custom CF b.dry chain that is a corrosion-resistant, maintenance-free solution designed for food applications and aggressive wash downs, with high cycles. The replacement matched the necessary specifications, including 208B-1 with D3 attachments, and was installed as a trial.

The outcome was significant: the iwis b.dry chain lasted over two years, doubling the previous service life and reducing the frequency of shutdowns. Encouraged by this result, the customer moved forward with a full rollout across all wrapper lines.



Results

Chain life increased from

2 years
to
18 months

\$200,000+

in cost savings from
reduced downtime,
labor, and replacements

\$95,000 in initial sales following
successful testing

Significant maintenance reduction across
21 upgraded wrapper lines