

Railway company successfully reduces operating costs and risk of derailments with innovative railcar valve

RESULTS

- Minimal risk of accidental train derailments and subsequent damages
- Improved worker safety
- Annual cost savings of \$50,000



APPLICATION

Coal car valves

CUSTOMER

One of the largest freight railroad networks in North America

CHALLENGE

The company, a large freight railroad network with three transcontinental routes, was having difficulties with the valves on its coal cars. These valves had a visual indicator that was not connected to the spool, causing the indicator to get stuck. This malfunction could potentially cause the cars to accidentally dump their loads of coal onto the tracks—a dangerous event that could cause potential train derailment and millions of dollars in damages. The accidental release of coal was therefore not just a money issue, but a critical safety issue. The company needed a new valve that could accurately and repeatedly indicate valve position (open or closed) and minimize the safety risks.

SOLUTION

Emerson engineers recommended the AVENTICS™ RCV5 railcar valve, whose innovative spool design overcomes the mechanical pain-point exhibited by previous valves. The RCV5's visual indicator is directly connected to the spool, providing a much clearer visual indication of the spool's location for operators. This connected spool design is a patented AVENTICS product feature and cannot be found in railcar valves from other suppliers.

In addition to a superior spool design, replacing the RCV5 valve is quick and easy taking only five minutes compared to the thirty minutes required by competitor models. The simple, yet reliable nature of this valve also improves its lifespan and facilitates maintenance in demanding railway applications.

A large freight railroad network was having difficulties with the valves on its coal cars, causing millions of dollars in potential damages. Emerson engineers recommended the AVENTICS™ RCV5 railcar valve, which successfully eliminated the accidental coal dumping and saved roughly \$50,000 annually.

By successfully eliminating the accidental coal dumping caused by previous valves, the freight company is projected to save roughly \$50,000 annually with the RCV5 units. Most importantly, it has also eliminated a major safety risk that could have caused millions of dollars in damages, as well as worker injury and death. Pleased with the valves' performance, the company intends to purchase 300 more units in the coming year.

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