

As good as it looks

Portasilo Bulk Handling Systems has successfully completed a scheme for Nestlé Purina to store and handle Wheat Gluten used in the production of cat food including As good as it looks.

The scheme includes two Aluminium storage silos to receive bulk deliveries of Wheat Gluten.

Wheat Gluten is delivered in 25te capacity tankers and is off loaded using a land based blower unit with acoustic hood. This blower is housed in a new enclosure along with two desiccant dryers, used to maintain a dry atmosphere in the silo headspace.

The silos are mounted on load cells to monitor the weight of Wheat Gluten in each silo with a high-high level probe fitted in each silo roof to prevent over filling of the silo. A pressure/vacuum relief valve, explosion relief panels and a reverse jet cleaned cartridge filter are all fitted at silo roof level.

The silos are clad to match an adjacent building and are linked by a connecting bridge, with access to the top being via a single access ladder. The ladder rungs are formed into an inverted U section from aluminium durbar plate.

Vibratory bin activators are fitted to the outlet of each silo to ensure satisfactory discharge during transfer, with the feed rate into the conveying line controlled by a rotary airlock valve.

Wheat Gluten is transferred from either silo by a lean phase vacuum conveying system to a receiver located above a 1 tonne capacity buffer hopper. The buffer hopper incorporates a twin outlet cone, each outlet being fitted with a bin activator, to promote flow.

One outlet is connected to an existing transfer system conveying Wheat Gluten to plant (1). The second outlet is connected to a new transfer line conveying Wheat Gluten to an existing receiver on plant (2).

Portasilo's discharge and transfer solution has proved so successful Nestlé has placed a further contract with Portasilo to upgrade another system.

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