



CASE STUDY

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Sifters for Food and Beverage Industry

RK Rubber has over 115 years of experience in developing rubberized solutions that can withstand corrosive environments, especially in the food and beverage industry. Maintaining FDA compliance is always a top priority and we have the technology, training, and knowledge to custom engineer products that can always meet demanding food and beverage processing standards. We were approached by a customer in the Midwest who required a flex connector that could not only withstand abrasion, but also resist static charge build-up at the connector's point of friction.

In sugar processing, raw sugar is transported from the oscillating feeder to a sifter station. The sugar wreaked havoc on their connector sleeves, causing them to become brittle, lose form, and ultimately flake particulate directly into their mixing stations. In many cases, the sleeves would only last a single shift, resulting in repeated downtime and costly replacement. They tried to upgrade to a plastic sleeve design, but the solution ultimately failed to meet their expectations. Our team was tasked to develop an FDA compliant sleeve that would address their problems. To combat the abrasive characteristics of sugar processing,

we selected FDA pure gum rubber which is a popular choice for food production. However, we still had to overcome the challenge of electrostatic build-up. We leveraged our splicing expertise and vulcanizer equipment to integrate wire into each of the sleeves. This would help ground the sleeves and prevent static build-up while allowing the sleeve to retain its original form, flexibility, and strength. The connectors were fabricated in lengths ranging from 6" to 60" in subsets of 4", 6", 8", and 10" diameters.



"GROW YOUR OWN!"

From concept design and prototyping to final installation, the process was completed in only 10 working days. We utilized superior materials and state-of-the-art fabrication techniques in order to meet our customer's requirements. As a result of our sleeve design, the customer immediately experienced improved service life, less downtime, and significant cost savings. They continue to order our connector sleeves and we have since honed our manufacturing process in order to deliver them within 3 working days.



= SOLUTIONS