

InterOffice Memo

PROPOSED 1996 MOD DEVELOPMENT AREAS*A. Chamber/Belt Interface*

Belt seizing & leakage continue to be an area that is poorly defined. Progress needs to be made in understanding what factors are critical to limiting both of these.

B. Drying/Wrinkling

Up to 25% of the machine width is currently unacceptable due to wrinkles, folds etc. thought to be caused by non-uniform drying/draw control. Experience on #17 machine and with adjusted drying profiles do show the potential for eliminating these unacceptable results.

C. Production Reliability

In addition to A & B there are other areas that impact the potential for or are related to extended operation. These include such topics as broke usage, the impact of MOD on base sheet manufacturing, verification of Set-Up Procedures/Operations Manual, Preventative Maintenance guidelines, and other potential production capability limiters.

D. Internal Fluid Transfer

The flow of the fiber/chalk/water mixture in the chamber has been seen to effect the capability of the band lay down process. Understanding this system will increase the potential for success of not only the existing MOD process but next generation and higher speed processes.

E. Slurry Characterization

Current slurry control is limited and a more in depth characterization will lead to improved control as well as needed understanding of what fiber properties, refining levels, and testing regimens will enhance process capability and product performance.

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F. Front to Back Variation

Correlation between variation in Averages & Standard Deviations and process controls has not been established. Particularly in the case of front to back variation, this correlation would allow the determination of process capability vs. innate limitations.

G. Second Generation System

As time is required for evaluation/analysis of any of the above and as improvements are identified a flexible unit will need to be built which can be operated independently off-line.

POTENTIAL PRODUCTION CAPABILITY LIMITERS

Chamber Design (fluid flow, cleaning, changeovers)
Stock Contamination (fiber roping, "trash")
Belt Cleaning & Guiding
Fiber Preparation
Product Physical Defects

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