

Kronospan Case Study

Snapshot

Kronospan, the UK's leading manufacturer of high quality wood-based panels, relies on Continental's solid and radial industrial tyres to keep its mixed forklift fleet in operation round the clock.



The Forklift Fleet

Kronospan's hardworking fleet of 40 forklifts, a mix of Linde and Hyster trucks, are used for moving products, loading and unloading round the clock, 365 days a year. This operation never closes and is open 24/7. Trucks are serviced externally by Linde Sterling and tyres are replaced every four months – or after approximately 4,000 hours service – as part of the contract, Kronospan are required to supply replacement tyres in the case of damage.

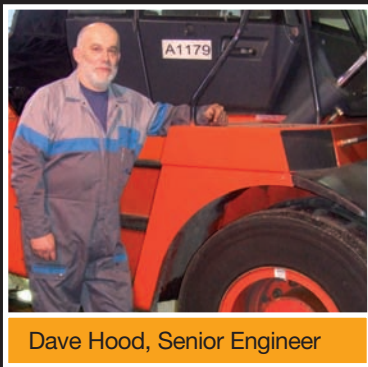
Business Issues

Arduous operating conditions put Kronospan's forklift fleet under constant performance pressure. The previous budget tyres specified were prone to wear and damage. Resulting vehicle downtime through tyre failure impacted on productivity and operational costs. Kronospan's rigorous environmental policy also required that tyre disposals be minimised.

Eighteen months later and over three quarters of Kronospan's fleet are fitted with Continental tyres, and the company is expected to move to 100% fitment throughout 2006.

"Early indications show that Continental tyres perform three times better than our previous brand," said Dave Hood. "Service life is much longer, our tyre budget has been reduced because we need to buy fewer replacement tyres and fleet productivity has increased. Thanks to its comprehensive range we can fit Continental tyres to our entire fleet."

The Solution



Dave Hood, Senior Engineer

Dave Hood, Fitter Supervisor, decided to test the premium Continental tyre range to improve service life and performance. He fitted Continental SC 15 damage resistant solid tyres, as well as the IC 80 extra deep and the

ConRad HT radial tyres on selected heavy duty forklifts within the fleet. He quickly realised the benefits of the Continental products, which proved to be longer lasting and more resistant to puncture and wear.

For Dave, one of the most significant benefits is that fitting Continental tyres reduces the stress of out-of-hours call out.

"I'm on call 24 hours a day, and since fitting Continental I've received no distress calls due to problems with Continental tyres," commented Dave. "The trucks are driven very hard in arduous conditions and I'm very satisfied with both Continental solid and radial tyres. I'd have no hesitation in recommending them to other operators."

Another important consideration for Kronospan, which was awarded a Queen's Award for Environmental Achievement in 1999, is the environmental benefits of creating fewer tyre disposals through longer service life. Reducing the number of casings that require disposal in landfill helps to lessen Kronospan's environmental footprint.



About Kronospan

Kronospan is the UK's leading manufacturer of high quality wood-based panels and associated products. Combining unrivalled manufacturing experience with the very latest scientific and technical innovations, Kronospan fulfils the needs of thousands of customers nationwide in the furniture, construction, distribution and DIY industries from its production facility in Chirk, North Wales. Kronospan UK is the third largest MDF site in the world, covering more than 100 acres, and has a workforce of 670. There are 50,000 deliveries per year by both road and rail to process the factory's capacity of 1,500,000 tonnes of raw material for panel production.

About Continental

Continental is the only tyre manufacturer with a comprehensive portfolio of industrial tyres, and is the world's technical and market leader in this sector. Its premium tyres deliver outstanding performance for operators in some of the most arduous working environments, where tyres are regularly pushed to the absolute limits. Continental's complete range offers the right industrial tyre for every application and operational environment.

Continental IC 80 Radial Tyres

An exceptionally damage-resistant tyre, the IC 80's reinforced casing is designed for the toughest applications.

Continental ConRad HT

The radial tyre for heavy duty applications that delivers extra long life in operation. Its exclusive asymmetrical half track tread is designed for twin fitment, slowing down sloped wear to increase the life of the tyre.

Continental Super Elastic Tyres SC 15



SC 15 is the premium tyre specified by leading forklift truck manufacturers, and its construction and compound are designed to deliver outstanding life in highly demanding environments.



Benefits for Kronospan

Continental industrial tyres provide the right solution for every application. By fitting the best quality tyre for the job, Kronospan has reduced vehicle downtime and is enjoying miles more service life from every Continental tyre, thanks to:

- fewer punctures and reduced tyre wear
- reduced vehicle downtime
- fewer replacement tyres, reduced operating costs
- no out-of-hours distress callouts to management for tyre issues
- reduced tyre disposals



For more information on Continental's SC 15 or any other industrial tyre enquiry, contact the Continental Industrial Hotline on 0845 6000 803 or fax 01895 425 996.

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