

# Simplifying Stainless Steel Drives in Washdown Applications

A major convenience store's production facility produces dairy, bakery, and prepared food products.

To support hygienic production, the facility began standardizing washdown conveyor applications with stainless steel gearmotors to improve sanitation, simplify maintenance, and increase equipment reliability and uptime.

### CLIENT PROFILE

**Customer:** Convenience Store Chain

**Industry:** Food & Beverage

**Distributor:** BDI

**Application:** Dairy Conveyor

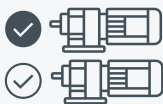
**Location:** Wisconsin, United States



### ➤ CHALLENGE: MODERNIZING AN EXISTING WASHDOWN APPLICATION

During a routine equipment review, maintenance personnel identified a conveyor application where years of aggressive washdown had caused exterior corrosion and paint deterioration on the existing gearmotor. Although the drive remained reliable, it was selected for retrofit as part of the facility's stainless steel upgrade.

As part of its ongoing standardization efforts, the facility wanted to transition this conveyor application to a stainless steel gearmotor better suited for aggressive washdown environments. The new solution needed to improve hygienic performance while fitting within the existing conveyor layout and minimizing installation time.



Support facility-wide  
standardization of stainless  
steel gearmotors



Reduce potential  
contamination  
concerns



Maintain the existing  
conveyor footprint



Minimize installation  
time and production  
downtime

## ➤ SOLUTION: INTEGRAL STAINLESS-STEEL GEARMOTOR RETROFIT

SEW-EURODRIVE worked with Bearing Distributors Inc. (BDI), the facility's local distributor, to evaluate the application and identify the best retrofit solution. SEW-EURODRIVE recommended replacing the existing conveyor drive with a KEST37TENV80-4B stainless-steel gear unit with integral motor.

The expansion of SEW-EURODRIVE's stainless-steel portfolio made this retrofit possible by eliminating the motor adapters traditionally required for stainless-steel conversions, enabling a near drop-in replacement.

Because the new integral design maintained nearly the same dimensional envelope as the existing installation, the upgrade required only a minor torque arm modification while preserving the existing shaft arrangement. The stainless-steel construction provides IP69K ingress protection, making it well suited for aggressive washdown environments.



"The customer wasn't replacing a failed drive; they were investing in a better long-term solution. Moving to an integral stainless steel gearmotor helped improve washdown suitability while making it much easier to standardize across similar applications."

**- Aly Knutson, BDI Branch Leader**

## ➤ RESULTS: SUPPORTING LONG-TERM STANDARDIZATION

The retrofit allowed the facility to continue its stainless-steel standardization initiative without redesigning surrounding equipment or significantly increasing installation time.

By taking advantage of SEW-EURODRIVE's expanded stainless steel portfolio, the facility modernized an existing washdown application with a hygienic solution that better aligned with its maintenance and sanitation objectives.



- Supported facility-wide standardization of stainless steel gearmotors
- Eliminated painted exterior surfaces in the application
- Reduced potential contamination concerns
- Near drop-in retrofit requiring minimal modification
- Improved suitability for aggressive washdown environments
- No reported operational issues following installation

## ➤ APPLICATION SUMMARY

### Application Area

Dairy Conveyor .....

### SEW-EURODRIVE Product(s)

**KEST37/T TENV80-4B**

Integral Stainless Steel Gearmotor

- Motor power: 1 HP (0.75 kW)
- Output speed [r/min]: 87
- Ratio: 20.19:1
- Output torque: 725 lb-in
- Mounting Position: M4



Explore the benefits of stainless steel gear units.  
Download the brochure to learn more.



## ➤ About SEW-EURODRIVE

For nearly 100 years, SEW-EURODRIVE has been a global driving force in machine automation, built on a heritage of innovation, unmatched engineering excellence, and a passionate commitment to serving customers.



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