

# Pulp and Paper Mill Uses SAAFShield® Technology to Ensure Productivity

## CASE STUDY – PULP AND PAPER MILLS

### Customer Profile

- Pulp and Paper mill located in Northern Michigan
- Leading North American supplier of coated papers to catalog and magazine publishers
- North America's second largest producer of coated groundwood paper
- Annual production capacity of 900,000 tons

### The Situation

Pulp and paper mills have the challenge of battling corrosion, due to the manufacturing byproduct generation of sulfur compounds. A Michigan pulp and paper mill thought its electronic process control equipment was being protected from failure due to corrosion by using gas-phase filtration products (scrubbers) and the services of an AAF Flanders' competitor. With approximately 25 control rooms housing the electronic equipment to control the mill's processes, the competitor provided minimal services, consisting primarily of the placement of traditional corrosion metal coupons to monitor corrosion and providing replacement gas-phase media for the mill's scrubbers.

After experiencing electronic failures in several control rooms, the mill sent the problem circuit boards to the manufacturer for forensic analysis. The findings confirmed that corrosion was present in the form of silver whiskers, a common occurrence with circuit boards compliant with the European Union's 2003 Restriction of Hazardous Substances Directive (RoHS). The mill asked AAF Flanders to review and provide solutions for the facility's control rooms, equipment, and maintenance practices.

### Electronic Control Rooms

Electronic control equipment has been used for several decades to control processes and enhance yields in the pulp and paper industry. Pulp and paper mills produce local environments relatively high in sulfur content—hydrogen sulfide, sulfur dioxide, mercaptans, or sulfur laden particulates. Compounds such as nitrogen oxides and chlorine can also be present at these facilities. Due to the

### Cost of industrial downtime

*for the pulp and paper industry is estimated to be \$20K per hour of downtime. A significant consequence of electronic equipment corrosion*

presence of these corrosive contaminants, circuit boards in these mills are subject to corrosion, and failures of electronic equipment have been well documented for many years. Recent regulations governing the materials of circuit board manufacturing have made electronic equipment even more susceptible to corrosion.

### The AAF Flanders Solution

AAF Flanders recommended the facility install SAAFShield® technology within their control rooms. SAAFShield Reactivity Monitoring allows the user to monitor corrosion activity in real time or on-demand to determine equipment or electronics vulnerability to environmental corrosion. SAAFShield technology provides the most accurate sensing capability available, due to its quartz crystal microbalance (QCM) technology.

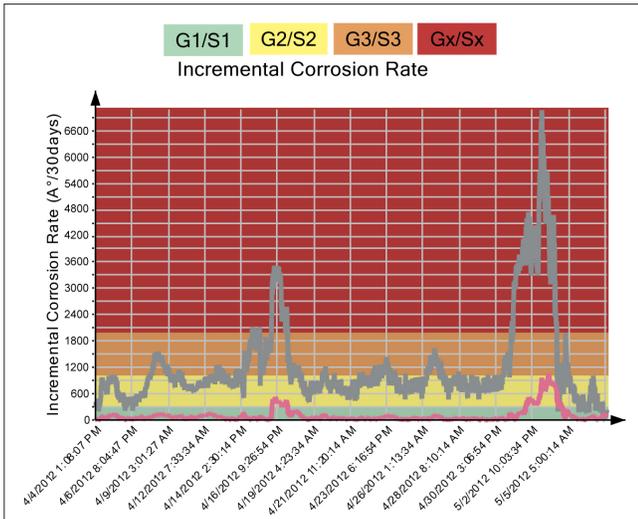
The SAAFShield Detecting Unit (DU) works together with the SAAFShield Reading Unit (RU) to display and trend corrosion data over time, which allows users to evaluate environmental factors of corrosion temperature and humidity at specific times. Ultimately, the data can be used to determine the effectiveness of operational procedures. Data can be logged continuously through PLC or periodically through the use of a USB thumb drive. If used periodically, a SAAFShield Reading Unit can store data for 500 detecting units.



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## Real-Time Monitoring Benefits

At the beginning of the investigation, a SAAFShield DU was placed in a control room to establish a corrosion rate baseline. In addition, corrosion coupon and media life analysis was conducted. The mill agreed with AAF Flanders' determination that the scrubber was past its useful life, and replenished the scrubber with fresh chemical media. While changing the media and performing maintenance on the scrubber, the SAAFShield DU identified increased levels of corrosion for both copper and silver (Figure 1). When the scrubber was put back into service, the corrosion levels were decreased to levels below those before the media replacement. Having displayed such sensitivity and accuracy during the trial, the mill decided to purchase SAAFShield Detecting Units for its remaining 24 control rooms.



**Figure 1**  
Chemical media change clearly indicated increased levels of corrosion in real-time from SAAFShield® Detecting Unit

## Reduced Downtime With SAAFShield® Technology

The cost of downtime is the most significant consequence of electronic equipment corrosion. In pulp and paper mills, corrosion of electronic control equipment can lead to shutdown of the process and lost production time. Pulp and paper mills are encouraged to use reactivity monitoring to determine the air quality in control rooms and other areas with electronic equipment. Control areas with corrosion rates over 300 Å per month on copper or over 200 Å per month on silver

may incur costly failures and downtime if not protected from gaseous corrosion through methods such as gas-phase filtration. AAF Flanders' SAAFShield monitoring technology was the perfect solution for the mill, offering confidence that its control rooms are now safe from costly unplanned downtime.

## Applicable Standards

### Traditional Corrosion Control (ISA 71.04-1985)

Applications: Paper Mills, Refineries, Industrial Plants, Wastewater Plants, Telecommunication Sites

Protected Equipment: Non-RoHS compliant circuitry in control rooms, motor control centers, or other such areas.

Class	Copper Å/ 30 days	Reliability Statement
G1 (Mild)	< 300	Sufficiently controlled such that corrosion is not a factor
G2 (Moderate)	< 1000	The effects of corrosion are measurable
G3 (Harsh)	< 2000	There is a high probability that corrosive attack will occur
GX (Severe)	> 2000	Only specially designed and packaged equipment would be expected to survive

### RoHS Compliant Corrosion Control (ASHRAE TC 9.9 Guideline)

Applications: Data Centers, Tire Manufacture Facilities, Rubber Manufacture Facilities, Paper Mills, Refineries

Protected Equipment: RoHS compliant circuitry in control rooms, motor control centers, or other such areas.

Class	Copper Å/ 30 days	Silver Å/ 30 days	Reliability Statement
G1 (Mild)	< 300	< 200	Sufficiently
G2 (Moderate)	< 1000	< 1000	Not acceptable – corrosive attack may occur
G3 (Harsh)	< 2000	< 2000	
GX (Severe)	> 2000	> 2000	

To learn more about AAF Flanders' SAAFShield® Technology, the ASHRAE TC 9.9 (RoHS) Standard, or SAAF Side Access Housings, visit us online at [aafintl.com](http://aafintl.com) or contact your local AAF Flanders Rep at 888.223.2003.



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