

Bactoforce tightens the rope for Dynamic Tank Inspection

'Rope access' provides access to the ultimate tank test, which provides the full hygienic overview of tanks with Bactoforce's Dynamic Tank Inspection program.

By Lars Frydenlund, Area Sales Manager

Bactoforce introduces a Dynamic Tank Inspection program in which inspection frequency and method are evaluated based on risk analysis performed on individual tanks on the customer's premises.

To date, Bactoforce has only inspected tanks from the bottom and 2 meters up, as this is where the biggest load factor occurs on tanks. Based on experience with our Dutch company, Bactoforce Benelux, who primarily only performs full tank inspections, we found that between 5 and 10% of their inspections also detected faults in tanks above 2 meters.

We therefore see increased demand for providing our customers with extra

reassurance concerning the condition of their tanks. By doing so, we can prevent product waste and recalls due to defects that can cause unwanted organic growth.

Inspection frequency and type

It's important for the customer to find the right inspection frequency - and type. We aim to hit just the right balance to minimise downtime, boost hygiene and cut costs for individual customers.

Bactoforce bases inspection frequency and type on our Dynamic Tank Inspection program, using a risk analysis performed on each tank on the premises of



each customer. Bactoforce uses 'Rope Access' for full-tank inspections. This is a rope-based method for access, protection and work in places with difficult access. One of the advantages of Rope Access is that a full inspection can be performed, including repairs and subsequent validation in just one day. Previously, up to two days could be spent on performing a complete tank inspection using traditional methods.

Risk analysis of tanks

Risk analysis is conducted in consultation with the customer and is based on the customer's own input on the tank, such as age and product type the tank is used for. Another key factor of the risk analysis is the tank's inspection record. All the inspections we perform are logged in our online database R-Force, which customers also have access to. Based on the inspection record, we

know the tank's condition - an important factor in risk analysis.

Bactoforce then supplies a complete report to the customer of the tank's hygienic status. Given the risk group a tank belongs to, the customer has a range of prevention options to choose from.

Bactoforce can use this form of risk analysis to provide a service that ensures better monitoring of a tank's hygienic parameters for the customer in a single overview report. Risk analysis also gives recommendations for whether the inspection type should be full tank inspection, or inspecting the lower part of the tank will suffice. This helps improve operating costs for any individual tank. ■



About Bactoforce

Bactoforce has a long and successful history within the field of inspecting tanks, spray dryers, pasteurisers, heat exchangers, pipes and other installations for global companies in the food industry.

Bactoforce is the preferred supplier for a number of leading food manufacturers in Europe. With more than 7000 inspections annually, an ISO9001 certification and a dynamic training program for our employees, Bactoforce provides the necessary experience and competence to meet all our customers' needs and comply with the strictest criteria.

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Full tank inspection performed with "Rope Access".

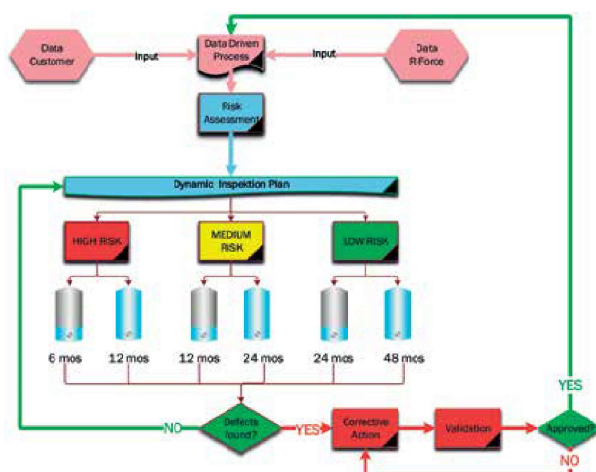


Figure 1. diagram of risk analysis for tanks