

Cleaning of a 25,000 ton silo

Lafarge Asland



After a careful evaluation Lafarge Asland decided to contract with Blancon to clean out their raw meal silo – a critical milestone in a larger maintenance initiative. As a part of the supplier selection process, Lafarge Asland was looking for a partner that would meet their high quality, safety and production expectations. “A key criterion for selecting Blancon was their technology.”

- Carlos Santos, Head of Operations, Lafarge Asland, Valencia, Spain

Preparations for Major Facility Upgrades

Lafarge Asland, a France-based leader in building materials and cement, had embarked on a plant upgrade program of their facility in Sagunto (Valencia), Spain. One of the key aspects was to clean their 25,000 ton raw meal silo, preparing for an overhaul of the extraction mechanism and air cushions.

The client-oriented solution that Blancon proposed successfully allowed Lafarge Asland to choose Blancon as their trusted partner for the project:

- ▶ Ability to partner with the client to jointly scope the project and develop a customized project solution
- ▶ Demonstrated breadth and depth of silo cleaning experiences with proven results
- ▶ Unique technical solution and methodology
- ▶ Emphasis on quality
- ▶ Rigorous safety measures

Silo Clean Out with Excellent Results

Blancon assumed overall project management responsibility for preparing the raw meal silo – from removing build-ups to industrial vacuuming of the silo floor.



The most advanced technology and methodology was used throughout the project to clean the silo. Special pneumatic cutting heads were used that allowed an unmatched material extraction performance compared to other solutions on the market. In partnership with the client, Blancon was able to deliver excellent results:

- ▶ Completed clean out of the silos with removal of approximately 5,000 tons of raw meal build up which could be reused in cement production
- ▶ Demonstrated superior safety record, delivering on Lafarge Aslands demanding safety requirements
- ▶ Eliminated any need for human entry into the silo throughout the build-up removal and cleaning phases
- ▶ Prepared the extraction mechanisms for changeover with industrial vacuuming of the silo floor once the silo was certified by Blancon as being safe for human entry

At a Glance

Objectives

- ▶ Cleaning of all surfaces and ceiling
- ▶ Industrial vacuuming of the floor to facilitate change-out of air cushions
- ▶ Safe cleaning, eliminating the need for human entry into the silo
- ▶ Removal of almost 5,000 tons of build-up

Silo Characteristics

- ▶ Content: Raw Meal
- ▶ Height: 35 meters
- ▶ Diameter: 20 meters
- ▶ Capacity: 25,000 tons

Services Provided

- ▶ Overall project management
- ▶ Silo cleaning and build-up removal
- ▶ Industrial vacuuming

Project Site

- ▶ Lafarge Asland Cement Factory in Sagunto (Valencia), Spain

About Blancon

Blancon delivers a broad set of quality-oriented, leading edge commercial and industrial maintenance and cleaning solutions. Our solutions can help companies across industry sectors address on-going and one-time maintenance needs, such as Industrial Maintenance & Cleaning, Water Treatment, Facility Management & Anti-graffiti, Indoor Air Quality & White Room Maintenance and Silo Cleaning.

Blancon's silo cleaning services has been used across multiple industry sectors and uses a unique methodology, delivering superior productivity while eliminating the need for human entry into the silo. Blancon can clean virtually any size or construction of silos and help remove all types of build-up.