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INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY WITH STRIP CURTAINS

Manufacturing plant managers are faced with a number of issues that impact on the reputation and the profitability of the company. Ensuring that the plant environment is conducive to producing consistently high quality products and that employees are comfortable are primary concerns.

Wim Dessing, managing director of Apex Strip Curtains & Doors, says that while an adequate heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system can play an important role in ensuring the comfort of workers, this is not always a feasible option. "In some instances the plant design does not lend itself to the inclusion of an HVAC system and in other instances the budget does not allow for it. Add to this is the fact that an HVAC system is generally very power hungry. In a business environment that focuses on decreasing carbon footprint, reduction of non-renewable energy resource usage is discouraged."

Dessing's cost effective and practical alternative to an HVAC system is Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains. Over the past 33 years, Apex Strip Curtains & Doors has refined its product offering by closely collaborating with the industry on the optimal product solutions for each application. The resultant Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains have been designed and developed with the variable South African climate in mind.

"Some parts of South Africa are considered to be desert, while other parts have a temperate climate and yet others are sub-tropical. Such extremes in temperature and humidity require careful attention to design and engineering detail to ensure a strip curtain that works effectively, irrespective of the location," says Dessing.

In addition to being able to control the influx of cold or hot exterior air, the Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains are designed to reduce the levels of dust as well as the ingress of birds, rodents and insects. In industries where hygiene and cleanliness are critical, these strip curtains are able to prevent the passage of unwanted contaminants, but still allow the unhindered and safe passage of people and forklift trucks. Another added benefit is the reduction of noise levels, from either inside the plant facility or from outside.

The specially formulated PVC material used for the company in the manufacture of its strip curtains provides a durable, yet flexible barrier that does not become brittle over time. Another design element that the company has incorporated and patented is the Balledge® feature. This rounded edge on the strips not only ensures an effective thermal seal at all times, but also allows the strips to part easily under pressure for the easy and scratch-free passage of people and goods from one area to another.

Stringent quality control processes are implemented at Apex Strip Curtains & Doors' modern manufacturing facilities in Modderfontein. Attention to detail forms the basis of all product manufacture at the company and is guided by a quality control system that guarantees that all specifications and tolerances are met during production.

The strips are available on a metre by metre basis from the company, or as a complete installation together with hanging hardware. A network of agents represents Apex Strip Curtains & Doors throughout South Africa, and technical and installation support is readily available from the company.

Plant design is a holistic discipline and Dessing notes that Apex Strip Curtains & Doors has a range of locally manufactured insulated impact traffic swing doors, roll-up and fold-up speed doors, roller blinds and cabinet curtains for refrigerated display cabinets as well as welding and safety screens. "In essence, we are able to provide a solution for most openings in manufacturing plants, workshops, packaging plants, storage facilities, retail environments, hospitals, offices and restaurants."

GENERAL PURPOSE STRIP CURTAINS PIC 01 : Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains have been designed and developed with the variable South African climate in mind.

GENERAL PURPOSE STRIP CURTAINS PIC 02 : Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains are designed to reduce the levels of dust as well as the ingress of birds, rodents and insects.

GENERAL PURPOSE STRIP CURTAINS PIC 03 : Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains feature the patented Balledge design which provides an absolute thermal seal.

GENERAL PURPOSE STRIP CURTAINS PIC 04 : Apex General Purpose Strip Curtains are manufactured from a specially formulated PVC material which provides longevity of life.

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