



Microbrewery Hops Inspection Hurdle to Savor Explosive ROI

After serving people from all over the world since 1997, the owners of the Milwaukee Ale House decided that because Milwaukee is the right place to make great beer, they should expand their small microbrewery and carry their version of the proud brewing heritage into the 21st century through their Milwaukee Brewing Company. So, they began the renovation of a newly acquired but very old facility where they created, modified, restored, and improved everything into a state of the art microbrewery that was ready for final inspection in June 2007.

A microbrewery's grain handling procedures associated with "milling in" barley, hops and yeast produce a considerable amount of dust that settles in and around electrical systems, creating the potential for dust-induced explosions. Local standards require these electrical systems to be constructed to ensure a high degree of safety, especially when located in the downtown area of a city like Milwaukee where an explosion would cause considerable harm and damage.

Knowing that the cost to install a certified "explosion proof" environment would cost \$60,000, the owners wisely decided to involve city inspectors, who signed off on their concept for designing a cost effective dust control solution as the avenue towards Class 2 Standard Equipment Operation classification.

Their steam-fitting vendor offered a very expensive, over-engineered solution, so Milwaukee Brewing's very talented staff decided to take on the project themselves. After investigating many local distributors that sell spiral pipe, they reviewed the Air Handling Systems catalog. They were delighted to benefit from AHS design tips, online ordering and quick delivery of standard and custom parts, with the confidence in buying direct from the manufacturer.

The dust control system was designed to collect the finest particles at the point of cracking open the grain at the mill as it moves between two large rollers. Key components included AHS spiral pipe, elbows, blast gates, transitions and vacuum kit with flex hose.

"It took 3 separate orders to complete the system because we were learning as we went", stated owner Jim McCabe. "For each order very quick delivery enabled us to stay on track and meet key milestones."

Milwaukee Brewery passed the electrical inspection with flying colors after sign-off by a licensed engineer who was subcontracted by the city when the system was ready for production in June 2007. City inspectors declassified their environment from "explosion proof" to "class 2 standard equipment for incidental dust build up". According to Jim McCabe, owner, "we passed the inspection in large part due to the dust collection system. Milwaukee Brewing earned a tremendous ROI by investing in an AHS system."

A non-financial, but equally important benefit was gained because employees no longer need to wear masks during "milling in" due to a cleaner environment.

"We were introduced to AHS through their service and support", said McCabe. "AHS builds win/win relationships and is easy to work with. Their thing is all about service. It's probably their core competency. That's what convinced us to buy from them. We bought their products sight unseen and were delighted with the gauge accuracy and high quality of their products. Everything went together very quickly and works great! This is what will earn referrals and repeat business as our company expands its operations with a need to retain our current classification".

According to Mary Hughes, AHS Technical Sales Representative, they decided to tackle the project using our design instructions, online shopping cart and installation guide. We're delighted with the way things have turned out and especially the savings during the creation of their microbrewery.

To learn more about Milwaukee Brewing Company, call 414-226-BEER or visit www.milwaukeebrewingco.com.



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