

Salt solution: Where strict demands are met smoothly

Problem case

Blumer & Lehmann in Switzerland is specialized in producing wooden (anti-corrosive) silos for salt (for icy roads). B&L needed a stable and reliable level measurement of the salt in their silos. This was subject to several strict demands: The measurement had to be contactless and resistant to the extreme Swiss weather conditions. Since several local winter services agencies were dependent on a very reliable result, it should be easy to use, maintenance free and had to have a local indicator display with a clear and easy to read out alarm function. An empty salt silo in the midst of a Swiss winter is not an option!

Competition was not able to provide a solution with a combination of measurement tool and display that could handle all requirements: There was always the need for an extra cabinet for protection and often contactless measurement was not an option, causing contamination of the salt. Also displays that were hard to read out or in need of an external indicator for highlighting alarm levels (with extra sensitive wiring necessary) failed to pass the requirements of B&L.

Fluidwell solution

Cooperating closely with its Swiss distributor, Fluidwell offered the perfect fit for this application: A 24V DC powered contactless laser-sensor and the F173-A level monitor with 230V AC power supply, 24V DC sensor supply to the laser-sensor, tank-shape linearization, high/low alarms and rugged field enclosure for which remote locations without facilities are no barrier. This F173 has a bright bicolor display, which switches from green to red in case of crossing a (preset) alarm level. This provides an excellent and quick indication whether the silo is running low or full, without an external indicator. It is ideal for the truck drivers who come to fill up or take out the salt from the silo. Without any external components or protective cabinet needed, the offered solution is also less expensive and universally applicable for all salt silos of B&L.

Results

- ✓ Fulfilling all customer requirements in a universal and low-expensive way.
 - ✓ Easy read out and integrated alarm function with full reliable results: No more empty silos.
 - ✓ Extreme weather resistant, no need for a protective cabinet and external components: Reliably low cost.
- B&L was very pleased, the long search is over: Now all requirements can be fulfilled without concessions. It has resulted in the installation of multiple units on salt silos of B&L in Switzerland, Austria and Germany. Furthermore B&L is considering to equip the installations with M-Series units for remote monitoring, which is an easy and handy add-on for remote inventory management and supply chain optimization.

More advantages

The F173 is just one example of an F-Series unit perfectly applicable for monitoring tanks or silos locally where a display is needed and facilities are poor (the battery life is up to 7 years). The plain, sensitive menu structure without confusing abbreviations and difficult codes is the same for all Fluidwell versions, products and series. Know one, know them all! Save time, hassle and costs with the same functioning and easy installation and maintenance. You've got to have a Fluidwell!

More information on the Fluidwell F-Series: [General information Fluidwell F-Series](#)
[Information and datasheet F173](#)
[General brochure Fluidwell F-Series](#)

8-sided wooden silo



Square wooden silos



F173 Level Monitor in operation



F173 Level Monitor with low alarm

