

Tiger-Tuff Bucket Preys On Tough Jobs

Tiger-Tuff Buckets Elevate United Grain Corporation Into New Era of Performance

Maxi-Lift Inc.'s new Tiger-Tuff® terminal duty elevator bucket racks up cost savings while it muscles more than 50,000 bushels of wheat per hour at United Grain Corporation's Vancouver, WA, terminal. "The extended life of this new bucket makes it a far superior value compared to the cost of other buckets," said Terminal Manager John Lemaster.

UGC processes 150 to 160 million bushels of wheat annually. The grain is unloaded from rail cars and loaded onto ocean vessels for export via the Columbia river. "We unload 35,000 railcars each year," said Lemaster. The massive volume took its toll on other elevator bucket brands increasing costs due to equipment failure and preventative maintenance.

With extreme equipment demands, UGC looked for solutions to maximize plant efficiency. They needed to increase their throughput and reduce elevator downtime. "We had two goals for 1996. The first was to get better control of the incoming commodity. The second was to make our processing more efficient."

To meet their first goal, UGC constructed a new 50,000 bph elevator, fed from a large receiving pit. Since the pit was built to unload two cars at once, the

elevator had to be a real workhorse to handle the high volume. It had to be very durable in both design and components, especially the elevator buckets. UGC experienced excessive wear on the previous brand of 16X10 "CC" style plastic buckets, so, to meet their second goal, UGC installed 2,200 units of the new Tiger-Tuff.

The Tiger-Tuff bucket features the thickest walls of any high speed elevator bucket available. Built specifically for maximum duty elevators with tremendous capacities or extreme work loads, the Tiger-Tuff bucket is engineered for durability. Maxi-Lift designed the new series of bucket sizes with thicker corners, lips and walls in all critical wear areas.

"We've more than doubled the wall thickness of a standard 16x10, going from a 1/4 of an inch thick to 5/8 of an inch in the high wear areas," said Jim Rogers of Maxi-Lift, Inc. The result is extended bucket life, and a reduction in lost capacity and premature bucket failure experienced with "CC" bucket styles. "Beginning with the 16x10 size, the Tiger-Tuff will become the new standard in maximum duty buckets," said Rogers.

The new 16x10 buckets



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are placed in a four across configuration on a 72" wide belt, the widest available belt on the market. Standard configurations for high capacity legs use 20X8 buckets placed three across.

UGC is so pleased with the strength, integrity and increased capacity of the bucket, they plan to install it on their marine off-loading elevator. The marine elevator is lowered into a full grain barge by crane and must continually dig wheat from the ship's hold. By far, it is one of the most severe applications facing any bucket.

Lemaster expects to unload 120 to 150 railcars per shift when the terminal's face lift is complete and UGC in Vancouver will rely on the Tiger-Tuff to do the job. "After gauging the quality and performance of the Tiger-Tuff on the new elevator, we will convert all of our maximum duty legs to Tiger-Tuffs." ▼

For more details or samples call Maxi-Lift, Inc.

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The Tiger-Tuff bucket is engineered with thicker corners, lips and walls in all critical wear areas.