The Challenge

Gestamp is a Tier 1 automotive supplier in the Greater Chattanooga, TN area. This state-of-the-art manufacturing facility is a new addition to the Gestamp portfolio and was built to accommodate a reliable supply of parts needed for a major German automotive manufacturer. This construction included new hydraulic presses which required an ISO 4406:99 cleanliness code of 15/13/11 on all hydraulic fluids. Six new presses were installed with reservoir capacities ranging from 3,500 gallons to 6,000 gallons. The Gestamp maintenance team was challenged with developing a plan to meet the hydraulic press manufacturer’s cleanliness requirements. The team looked at designing, purchasing and operating a filtration system process onsite for this large volume, which proved to be a costly capital expense. The Gestamp team was challenged to look at alternative options.

Investigation and Site Assessment

Dan Wolford, Sales Director for Parman Energy in East Tennessee led the effort to address possible solutions for the challenge. Working with the Gestamp maintenance team, Dan completed a site assessment and evaluated different options including onsite filtration. The analysis revealed that implementing an onsite filtration system to pre-filter new hydraulic fluid would be more costly than receiving hydraulic fluid that meets the required cleanliness code at point of delivery.

Solution – Start Clean & Stay Clean

After careful investigation, Dan suggested implementing the Chevron ISOCLEAN® Certified Lubricants Program. This enabled the Gestamp maintenance team to meet and exceed the hydraulic press manufacturer’s ISO Cleanliness code requirement for the hydraulic fluid with minimal operational impact. Parman Energy is supplying Chevron Hydraulic Oil AW 68 – ISOCLEAN Certified to an ISO Cleanliness code of 15/13/11 on every delivery. To maintain the cleanliness level onsite, the Gestamp and Parman Energy teams are implementing a world-class product handling and storage program. This includes deploying a robust oil conditioning monitoring program to measure and provide visibility to the entire team.

Results – Increased Equipment Life & Reduced Maintenance Costs

By meeting the stringent ISO Cleanliness code required by the hydraulic press manufacturer with the Chevron ISOCLEAN Certified Lubricants Program, Gestamp is ensuring that they will be in the best position to maximize hydraulic system component life. Completing the ISOCLEAN Certification process at Parman Energy’s facility and providing the documentation prior to delivery has taken the burden off of the Gestamp maintenance team. Gestamp has avoided costly capital expenses and enabled the maintenance team to focus on maintaining a high level of reliability on the hydraulic presses.