

# ***OIL FREE* STAINLESS TROLLEYS**

## ***Clean up your plant environment!***

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VGK's new *oil-free, stainless steel trolley system* significantly reduces the risk of "black speck" contamination associated with black iron trolleys and rails. New radius-edge stainless rail and stainless steel switches complete the system.



- ***NO OIL***
- ***NO Black specks***
- ***Significantly reduce carcass trim labor and material***
- ***Reduce Maintenance***
- ***Eliminate Caustic Cleaners***
- ***Consistent tare weight***

The VGK trolley combines stainless steel with plastics to form a wheel that requires no oil and outlasts the old steel trolley wheel. This patented wheel helps eliminate metal-to-metal contact between the trolley wheel and the rail.

VGK, Inc., headquartered in Pella, Iowa, manufactures its patented oil-free, stainless steel trolleys for plants that process pork, beef, and other animals.



**[www.vgk-inc.com](http://www.vgk-inc.com)**

or call **800-845-6551.**

# VGK Inc. of Pella, Iowa,

*has helped a pork processing plant in Oklahoma move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.*

Seaboard Farms' Guymon, Okla., facility recently became the first major plant to install VGK's state-of-the-art oil-free trolley system for transporting carcasses. The stainless steel trolley replaces an iron trolley and rail system that was first patented in 1885.

"Historically, industry standard for transferring carcasses through the slaughter, chilling and fabrication processes utilized cast iron trolleys and carbon steel rail," said Marty Hast, Seaboard's director of facility engineering and process design. "This type of system requires the use of food-grade oils and grease lubrication to prevent rusting and to provide proper rolling of trolley wheels in the rail. Due to the lubrication oils used, and the metal-to-metal contact incurred, small black specks occur. ...Although the substance is not a food safety issue, it is still necessary to trim it from the product."

The VGK trolley eliminates the occurrence of black speck.

VGK holds two patents – one on the wheel and the other on the stainless steel rail.

"The idea behind the system is to eliminate metal-to-metal contact from the wheel to rail surface and from the hinge pin to the wheel, which virtually eliminates wear and the need for any oil for lubrication," said Verlan Van Dyke, president of VGK.

"Thus we can really clean up the packing plant environment and eliminate the necessary carcass trim.

"The elimination of oil, caustic cleaners (a hazardous

"Besides the benefit of a cleaner environment, the maintenance aspect has been the most talked about as the old steel trolleys demanded constant attention, and the VGK trolleys just keep running.

"The ease of cleaning the trolleys is also mentioned. The old trolleys are cleaned with a high pH (12-14, which is a hazardous waste) and then are dipped in oil to prevent rusting. The new trolleys just need a light alkaline detergent (pH 6-7, which can be washed down the drain and is totally biodegradable) and of course, no oil.

"Running with no oil means virtually no carcass trim either," Van Dyke said, "and as Seaboard has found, they can move this unproductive labor to productive labor, and this is probably the biggest bottom-line advantage to the system."

A new VGK trolley system can be installed in a week-end.

"One of the major concerns has been the change-over process and how this can be done seamlessly in the plant," Van Dyke noted. "With the experience of Seaboard, we have proven that there would be only a minimum of downtime due to the changeover of stainless steel rail and switches in the plant and that it takes just a weekend to get the new trolley up and ready for production on Monday morning.

"Proper planning and coordination are the key, and VGK will be there to help advise and administer any change-over."

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waste), maintenance, and the savings on carcass trim and labor add up to a system that pays for itself very quickly," Van Dyke said.

Seaboard is already experiencing that savings.

"We have significantly reduced black speck occurrence," Hast said. "We have eliminated the use of trolley oils and rail grease and eliminated several positions that were required to trim black speck contaminate from carcasses. We have also reduced the cost of trolley cleaning chemicals.

"Bottom line, we have realized a simple payback in just over one year."

Seaboard isn't the only plant pleased with the VGK trolley. The system has also been installed in several smaller pork, beef and lamb plants.

"The feedback has been awesome, as the no-oil approach proves its worth almost immediately," Van Dyke said.

"The project went very well," Hast said of Seaboard's change to the new trolley system. "VGK provided professional assistance and service to Seaboard, and we are happy with our relationship."

Hast said he would choose the new system again.

"We have replaced 100% of our Guymon facility's carcass transfer system with the VGK system, incorporating over 18,000 new stainless steel trolleys and 16,000 feet of stainless steel rail. If and when Seaboard decides to build another facility, our engineering staff will firmly recommend the VGK system for the new facility as well."

Which is just what they had in mind in Pella, Iowa.

"VGK's goal is to help clean up the plant environment and turn what has always been an expense on the ledger sheet to a plus on the investment side by use of the VGK oil-free stainless steel trolley and stainless rail system," Van Dyke concluded.