



Compounding Lines

Your Global Compounder of Custom Engineered Thermoplastics

Raising the "Steaks"!

New plastics innovation improves consumer safety in meat processing industry

Safari Belting Systems manufactures modular plastic conveyor systems that are used extensively by meat processors. According to President Chris Smith, customers often come to them with specialty product requests, but one recent request led **Safari** to seek out a plastics compounder offering greater expertise than they had access to at the time.

*"It was a very positive experience --we were very glad to have found **RTP Company**,"* he said.

Smith notes that in the early days of meat processing, conveyors were made of stainless steel. In rare instances, a small metal chip might slough off a high speed belt and find its way into the ground meat. Safety conscious companies proactively x-rayed their products to ensure that metal-tainted meat never made it out the door. Although metal conveyors have long since been replaced with plastic ones, most meat processors have not made efforts to similarly test for plastic chips, presumably because of the relative harmlessness of the material.

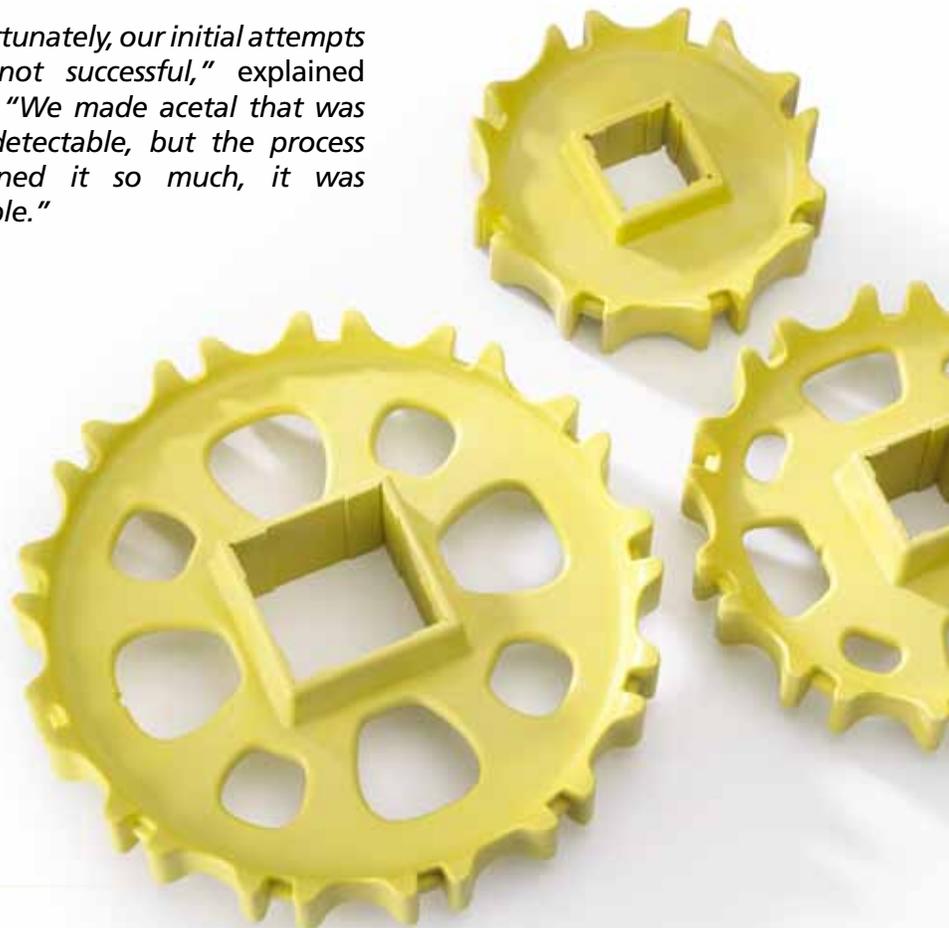
Nevertheless, with optimal food safety such a hot issue today, a **Safari** customer, one of the world's largest meat processors, decided to raise the stakes and see if they could add a plastics inspection to their quality control procedures. They asked **Safari** if they could make their plastic conveyor components x-ray detectable.

"Unfortunately, our initial attempts were not successful," explained Smith. *"We made acetal that was x-ray detectable, but the process weakened it so much, it was unusable."*

They sought out a new resource and soon found **RTP Company** through a colleague.

*"We explained to **RTP Company** the properties we needed... high impact, x-ray detectable, and FDA approved for food contact... and they ran with it,"* he explained.

cont.





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*- President Chris Smith
Safari Belting Systems*

cont.

Adding to the challenge, the customer also suggested making the plastic more visible to the eye, helping further decrease the likelihood of a chip making its way through the line. Could **RTP Company** produce a material in a unique color, as well?

*"We selected a bright, fluorescent safety green color that would immediately stand out from any ground meat, and **RTP Company** matched it precisely," said Smith.*

The result—a high impact, x-ray detectable, FDA-approved, fluorescent green TPU compound is now being used on belts in several processing lines, and according to Smith, the customer is delighted.

"They've added an x-ray device to their lines and they are confident this has improved their food safety assurance efforts even further," he said. "It's also made us an even more valuable supplier in their eyes, having met this need for them."

*"We never could have done it without **RTP Company's** help. We're a relatively small company, but they made us feel like we were a big business, giving us all the time and attention and resources we needed. We've already turned to them with other plastics challenges and they are just as effective. They are a great partner for us."*

Safari Belting Systems

Market: Industrial
Compound: RTP 1200 Series Green



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