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Tunnel Tip #36

Start with accuracy, finish with quality

MAIN BLOWER BEARING NOISE

The bearing may show premature wear if the blower wheel gets out of balance. The wheel is balanced at fan manufacturing facility and checked by Colmac. The wheel usually becomes unbalanced wheel due to the buildup of lint on the blades. This happens at a slow rate even with a well-maintained tunnel. As part of a good preventative maintenance program, the blower wheels should be inspected monthly and cleaned as necessary.

The lint screen prevents the lint from getting to the blower wheel. If the lint screens are pulled out of the tunnel for cleaning (with garments still being processed), while the tunnel is running, this is a warning sign. This could accelerate the normal buildup of lint and cause, or worsen the out-of-balance condition.

Another thing to watch for is fallen garments, especially if the aforementioned condition is present. A garment can fall and plug the inlet of the blower. In some cases this garment can slip past the

secondary safety wire into the blower wheel. Also, the airflow in the tunnel is seriously reduced and performance will suffer. Also, lint can build up on these fallen garments and sometimes discharge in clumps into the blower wheel.

It is good to have a regular inspection of the area between the lint screens and blower inlets. It is also a good idea to inspect the blower wheels themselves. Make a good practice of cleaning the lint screens with the tunnel turned off or when garments are not present. This will keep lint from being introduced to the system and the risk of a dropped garment will be eliminated.

Other potential issues leading to lint buildup in the blower wheels: holes in the screen material, lint screen latches out of adjustment, lint screen seal material decaying or missing and bent lint screens leaving air gaps. All of these areas should be inspected as directed by the preventative maintenance schedule. 