

### OVERVIEW



- CUSTOMER:** With more than 90 years of experience in the roofing industry, Derbigum is the reference supplier of sustainable solutions that protect buildings from the elements of nature.
- CHALLENGE:** Bitumen is a difficult product to handle because it hardens at room temperature.
- SOLUTION:** Control the batch viscosity with a MIVI viscometer installed directly on the mixing tank
- RESULTS:** Huge time-saving, since the MIVI is easy to use, maintenance free and gives great results.

### Manufacturer of sealing products

Derbigum employs 449 people worldwide and is, in its own words, the Belgian market leader in flat roofing products.

Their products are only marketed through professional outlets. Derbigum has such a mastery of roofing that it also offers a 20-year warranty.

Derbigum not only strives to reduce its own ecological footprint, but also to develop new products.

### A difficult product to work with

Bitumen is a difficult to handle product because it hardens at room temperature.

*"We have two processing options. For the membranes, the bitumen is first heated and we add polymers and fillers. For the production of adhesives and mastics, bitumen must remain liquid at ambient temperature. For this purpose, solvents or vegetable oils are added to the bitumen. This cutback forms the basis of all liquid products."* Aerts said.

He explained further: *"We make products for waterproofing flat roofs. In Pervez is the production plant for waterproofing membranes for roofs"*

### New factory: new process equipment

The parameters of the mixing process are quite strict in order to keep the applicability and the performances of the final product for the customer as great as possible

When a new cutback plant was built, the company installed on the mixing tank a MIVI viscometer.

### Importance of installing a Sofraser viscometer

Bitumen is fed from a 30-ton tank and vegetable oil from another 30-ton tank. At the bottom of the 5-ton blender, the viscosity meter indicates when the two substances are properly mixed and can be pumped to a storage tank.

*"Because we guarantee a good product, not only performance is important, but we also attach great value to applicability by our customers."* Aerts said. *"That means that the liquid products must be easy to apply, whether the weather is hot or cold is. And that in turn implies that the parameters of the mixing process are fairly strict."*

Thanks to the continuously monitored viscosity, provided by Sofraser's viscometer, bituminous products manufacturers are able to determine

### The benefits of a viscometer

*"The viscosity is continuously monitored during the mixing process and the operator receives a signal when the mixture is ready, or mixed according to his specifications."* Aerts explained. *"The choice for this meter was mainly for its ease of use. And that has now proven itself. We don't have to do anything to it and only check the meter during the annual, overall maintenance of the tank."*

One of the main benefits of the implementation of a process viscometer is to ease the process control. Sofraser viscometers contain no moving parts and the electrically operated rod vibrates continuously. In conclusion, if the tank is empty, nothing sticks to the sensor, so the system is virtually maintenance-free.