



## Continuing Improvement At Ben Bennett Jr. Ltd.



Ben Bennett Jr. Ltd in Rotherham are a family owned business approved to BS EN ISO 9002 who originated in 1883, with the steel side of the business starting in 1936. As part of an ongoing improvement programme they have purchased a continuous steel strip hardening furnace from **Excel Heat Ltd**.

They replaced an old brick lined furnace with a new, state of the art, low thermal mass furnace which is designed to work in conjunction with the lead bath quench, cooling dies and planishing dies previously supplied and installed by **Excel Heat Ltd**

**Excel Heat Ltd** specifically designed the continuous hardening furnace to suit Ben Bennett Jr's. individual needs. It is capable of 250 Kilogrammes per hour with a single strip width of up to 10" (254mm) wide and can also accommodate multiple narrower strips.

This continuous electric muffle furnace incorporates a remarkable design feature, which drastically reduces maintenance downtime. These time savings are due to the configuration and accessibility of the heating system. This enables individual elements to be changed, when required, from outside of the furnace and while it is still hot.

If an element needs replacing it is no longer necessary to use a crane to open up the furnace, cool it down, carry out any maintenance and then wait for it to get back up to temperature.

However from time to time it is necessary to 'open' up the furnace to inspect, or change the muffle for instance. This was previously achieved by using block and tackle to lift the furnace cover out of the way and then returning for the muffle. To improve this operation **Excel Heat Ltd** designed and manufactured a dedicated lifting mechanism which hinged open the whole of the furnace cover, allowing easy access to the internal workings of the furnace for any maintenance purposes.



For more information on this product or our range of ovens, furnaces and spares  
contact Mike Kealy

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