

# Resolving a Product Quality Issue for a Major Cheese Factory

**Customer Case Study** 



## **PROFILE**

The company involved in this case study is a large cheese manufacturer located in the South Dakota area that makes cheese, whey, lactose, and anhydrous milk fat products for some of the largest food brands in the world. At the time they reached out to TFS for assistance, they were not yet a customer.

### **CHALLENGE**

The company was experiencing quality issues in the final stage of their process, which consisted of "blowing off" large blocks of cheese before being packaged and shipped to food processing companies.

They contacted Total Filtration Services to help determine a solution for their quality issues, as they were finding metal flakes on the blocks of cheese, which had already



caused them to throw away a large batch of product. Failure to resolve this issue would result in thousands of dollars in wasted product, as well as damage to their brand reputation.

### THE TFS SOLUTION

After surveying the area of concern, TFS found the particles (metal flakes) were coming from the metal separators on the HEPA filters. Because the separators weren't necessary in this application, TFS proposed switching to a similarly performing filter without the metal separators. Due to strong relationships with manufacturing

partners, identifying the replacement filter was a short process.

# **EXPLAINING HEPA**

HEPA is an acronym for "High-Efficiency Particulate Air" or "High-Efficiency Particulate Arrestance." This acronym refers to a mechanical air filter that is manufactured, tested,



certified, and labeled in accordance with current HEPA filter standards. it works by forcing air through a fine mesh that traps harmful particles.

### **RESULTS**

The customer embraced the recommended solution to replace the existing HEPA filters with a new brand and model without the metal separators. They were satisfied to learn that the quality issue went away and that TFS brought a technical solution which solved a problem causing product loss costing \$100,000. TFS was later asked to supply several other types of filtration products for applications throughout their facility.