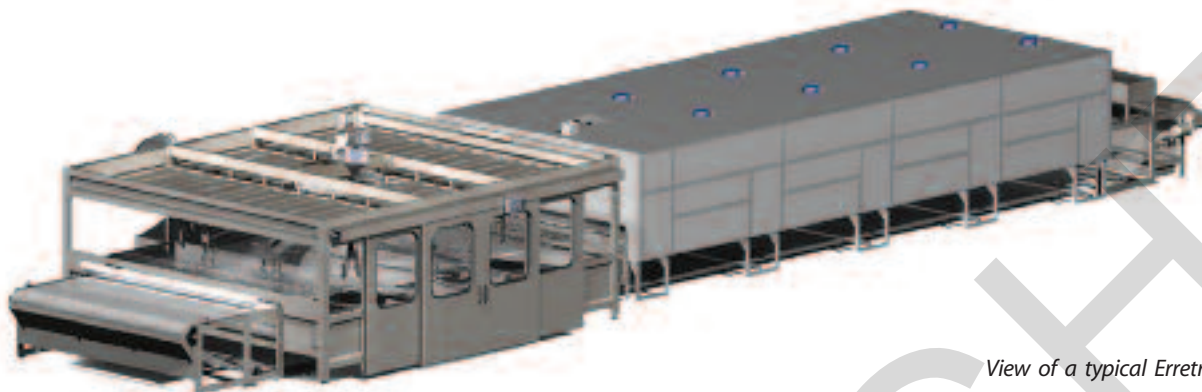




Spray finishing by computer



View of a typical Erretre spray line

As long ago as 1974, Erretre Spa, an engineering company based in the Italian leather cluster of Arzignano, began to look at problems arising when spraying leather. Specifically, the suppression of spray fumes and other environmental pollution factors were targeted. The outcome of this research was that Erretre developed rotary spraying machinery equipped to control unwanted emissions while at the same time creating a high performance product.

Computerisation is the lynchpin of the modern Erretre spray lines, both of which can be interfaced and incorporated with new industrial automation. The computer system employed provides user-friendly, full colour, touch screen graphic display, enabling centralised checking and control of the spray as well of the subsequent drying process. The management and setting of the working parameters consisting of the rotary gun carrier speed, conveyor speed, and gun controls, as well temperature and humidity programming in drying tunnels, is displayed on the screen together with the overall plant view. The system also lends itself to the creation, editing and saving of full spray line programs. Restricted log-in access to the control panel allows monitoring of the operation, data editing and saving. Operators running saved programs can start the machine immediately. The computerised panel can be linked via Ethernet to a LAN connection for remote assistance or software modifications.

Energy saving is an integral feature of Erretre spray line computerisation. A comprehensive electronic system interacts with the leather detection photocell bar and may signal for the whole piece of equipment to switch to standby mode during a pause in production. This system is a part of a “computerised local automation” and can also be activated either manually or automatically for energy and cost saving modes.

The spray cabin can also be equipped with a fully automated system called “booster technology” which changes the colour flow according to gun position in the gun carrying rotor. This is a patented original device which ensures uniform coating across the whole spray width.

The drying tunnels of the line are suitable for heating by steam or by hot water circulation or diathermic oil. Infrared radiation is available as well and can be installed alone or together with other sources of heat. Erretre state that this combines the advantages of a single source of heat provided singly and the possibility to use convection and radiation heat at the same time, which would improve polymer cross-linking, leaving the leather at a better temperature. All drying parameters are programmed and controlled from the main panel and are saved. Remote software help and updating of existing programs is available on the internet for this system as well as for all other Erretre produced machinery. ☺

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