**CASE STUDY**

**SofTek™ Doctor Blade**

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**Challenge**
A linerboard machine in the Northwest U.S. used Polyflex™ doctor blades on the first press self-loading controlled crown roll and the blade would often hydroplane. With 0.250” thick blades, the contact area between the blade and roll is often very large, resulting in low specific pressure at the blade tip. The hydroplaning would result in water ringing the roll. Mill personnel continued increasing the loading of the blade to ensure the blade was in contact with the roll. The higher loading resulted in roll wear.

**Solution**
The mill installed a 0.050” thick SofTek doctor blade. The difference in thickness resulted in more load transmittance to the blade tip even with significantly lower blade loading.

**Results**
The mill decreased blade loading and still achieved efficient doctoring and water removal. Since the SofTek doctor blade has no abrasive glass fibers, there were no concerns for roll wear, as they had previously seen with the Polyflex doctor blade due to the high loading.

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**Highlights**
- A thinner blade can provide more efficient load transmittance
- Gentle on roll surfaces
- Extended blade life
- Reduced downtime
- Improved wear rate