

Finned tube supplier increases capacity, expands product line

Vulcan Finned Tubes LP

Vulcan Finned Tubes LP, a manufacturer of finned tubes for heat transfer applications, has experienced steady growth since the company was founded in 1999. Vulcan's expanding customer base and sales volume has enabled the company to design and build a new manufacturing facility, conveniently located in Tomball, Texas, just outside the Houston area. Vulcan moved into the new facility, which is twice the size of its original leased facility, in late 2004. The new facility, in turn, provided the company with the space and resources to further expand its manufacturing capacity and product lines. The most recent example of such an expansion is in Vulcan's aluminum L-foot tension-wound finned tube product.

Aluminum L-foot finned tubes

Aluminum L-foot tension-wound finned tubes are typically used in air-cooled applications where temperatures do not exceed 400 F. The configuration consists of a thin aluminum fin strip tightly wound helically around the tube circumference. A "foot" is first formed on one side of the fin strip, and the strip is then tightly wound around the tube, with the foot bearing against the tube's outer surface. The fin strip is held in tension as it is wrapped around the tube, causing the fin foot to seat forcefully on the tube, thereby holding the fin firmly in place and providing a heat transfer path.

The following table shows Vulcan's range of capabilities for manufacturing the aluminum L-foot finned tubes:

Tube OD	5/8" to 1 1/2"
Fin Height	3/8" to 5/8"
Fin Thickness	0.014" or 0.015"
Fin Material	Aluminum 1100-0 or 5005
Fin Spacing	Usually 10 fins per inch — can be varied
Tube Material	Generally carbon steel, stainless steel or brass — can be any material
Tube Length	No practical limit

In late 2005, Vulcan made two significant expansions in its aluminum L-foot finned tube manufacturing operations. Recently, the company added manufacturing capacity that doubled the rate at which it can produce its aluminum L-foot finned tubes. The added machinery boosted Vulcan's L-foot production rate capability to 23,000 feet per day.

In addition, Vulcan added the capability to manufacture perforated aluminum L-foot finned tubes. These

finned tubes are identical in configuration to the regular L-foot, except that holes are perforated through the fins at regularly-spaced radial intervals. Significant heat transfer advantages have been claimed for perforated L-foot finned tubes in air coolers under the premise that interruptions in the fin surface can reduce the thickness of the stagnant air film that builds up on the fin as air flows over it. This results in an increased film coefficient, thereby increasing the overall heat transfer rate. The improved heat transfer efficiency can reduce heat transfer surface area requirements and cooler size, or reduce airflow and fan horsepower requirements.

Vulcan can also supply customers with accessory items commonly used in air-cooled applications, such as wrap-on bands, wiggle strips (channel supports), turbulators, header plugs, tube plugs, tube ferrules, etc.

Vulcan not only provides customers with the above mentioned aluminum L-foot tension-wound finned tubes, but also manufactures welded solid helical, welded serrated helical and welded longitudinal finned tubes as well, and also provides extensive fabrication services.

A promise of quality and service 24/7

"The keys to the success of Vulcan Finned Tubes are service, quality and highly competitive pricing," Mike Soulant, founder and owner of Vulcan, said. "We remain aware that these three factors are inter-related — service with-

out quality or quality without service is unacceptable to the customer; and without competitive pricing, we would not have the opportunity to demonstrate either customer service or product quality. Therefore, we pay utmost attention to maintaining all three of these aspects of our business."

The company's recent investment in expanded manufacturing capability in order to better serve its customers' needs demonstrates this commitment to service,

quality and competitive pricing.

Vulcan Finned Tubes' Quality Assurance Program ensures monitoring of the production process every step of the way, making sure that a customer's order meets the defined standard specifications.

Additionally, when a customer dials Vulcan's 24-hour



Employees at Vulcan Finned Tubes produce the aluminum L-foot finned tube.

emergency phone number, they don't reach an automated answering service.



An aerial view inside Vulcan Finned Tubes' recent plant expansion, doubling the company's aluminum L-foot finned tube manufacturing capability.

Instead, they reach Soulant's personal cell phone, demonstrating the company's commitment to quality and service 24/7. The company also maintains emergency contacts with key suppliers, providing Vulcan the ability to procure needed materials on an emergency basis.

For more information, please contact Vulcan at (281) 255-4775 or visit the company's new Web site at www.vulcanfinedtubes.com. □



Service...

when you need it *most*.

Vulcan's sales staff is available 24 hours every day to meet your emergency needs. If emergency circumstances warrant, our shop staff can begin your job immediately and continue working around the clock to meet your turnaround delivery needs.



- Welded helical solid finned tubes
- Welded helical serrated finned tubes
- Welded longitudinal finned tubes
- Aluminum L-foot finned tubes
- Pipe, fittings and flanges
- Bending services
- Turbulators
- Tube supports
- Tube Ferrules
- Shoulder plugs & gaskets



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