

Robert Higgins

r.higgins.ops@outlook.com | 0151 496 0128

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Detail oriented Senior Hydrogenation Machine Operator with over 12 years of experience in edible oil processing. Proven track record of maintaining 99% production uptime and strictly adhering to BRC and HACCP standards. Expert in managing high pressure nickel catalyst reactions and optimising batch cycles for increased throughput.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Senior Hydrogenation Operator | Princes Group | Liverpool, UK

Apr 2016 - Present

- Lead the operation of three large scale hydrogenation reactors for the production of bakery shortening.
- Reduced catalyst consumption by 14% through precise temperature control and improved agitation monitoring.
- Spearheaded a safety initiative that resulted in 1,200 consecutive days without a lost time accident.
- Managed the transition to a new DeltaV PLC control system, completing the project 2 weeks ahead of schedule.
- Execute daily quality control tests for Iodine Value (IV) and refractive index to ensure 100% batch consistency.

Process Operator | ADM Erith | Erith, Kent

Aug 2010 - Mar 2016

- Controlled the hydrogenation of rapeseed and palm oils while maintaining strict adherence to GMP and BRC standards.
- Improved filtration efficiency by 20% by implementing a new cleaning schedule for the pressure leaf filters.
- Mentored 6 new hires on the handling of flammable hydrogen gas and nickel catalyst safety protocols.
- Monitored high pressure steam and cooling water systems to maintain reaction temperatures within a +/- 1 degree range.
- Authored 12 new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the refining department.

Production Assistant | Cargill PLC | Manchester, UK

Jun 2007 - Jul 2010

- Assisted in the daily operation of oil refining and bleaching equipment for vegetable oil production.
- Performed hourly equipment inspections which identified 5 potential pump failures before they occurred.
- Maintained accurate production logs for over 500 batches annually in compliance with FSA regulations.
- Cleaned and prepared reaction vessels for catalyst changes, reducing downtime between batches by 15%.

EDUCATION

University of Liverpool | Bachelor of Science (Hons) | Industrial Technology

Aug 2003 - May 2007

Manchester College | Level 3 NVQ Diploma | Chemical Processing Technology

Aug 2001 - May 2003

SKILLS

High Pressure Vessel Operation, Catalyst Management, PLC Control Systems, Refining & Filtration, Analytical Testing (Melting Point, IV), Batch Processing, HACCP Standards, COSHH Regulations, Lockout/Tagout (LOTO), GMP (Good Manufacturing Practices), Emergency Response Protocols

CERTIFICATIONS

Level 4 Food Safety Management | Highfield Qualifications (2021)
NEBOSH General Certificate | NEBOSH (2018)

LANGUAGES

English (Native)
Spanish (B2 - Professional Working Proficiency)

ACTIVITIES

Society of Chemical Industry (SCI)

Active member attending technical webinars to stay updated on edible oil processing innovations.

St John Ambulance

Volunteer first aider providing emergency medical support at local community events.