INFRA SONIC SOOTBLOWER

Infra sonic cleaners are designed to remove particulate matter from surfaces such as boilers and heat exchangers using low-frequency sound waves that are inaudible to the human ear. Unlike traditional soot cleaning techniques that rely on high-pressure steam or air, infra sonic sootblowers produce powerful sound waves that create resonance with soot particles. This resonance causes the particles to detach from the surfaces, enabling effective cleaning.

Key Characteristics of Infra Sonic Cleaning

Sound Level **Requirements:** The sound level necessary for effective operation depends on the type of technology used and the characteristics of the surface being cleaned. Infra sonic cleaning technology operates at very low frequencies (below 20 Hz), outside the range of human hearing. Therefore,



parameters like sound frequency and the vibration applied to the surface are more critical than sound pressure levels measured in decibels (dB).

Energy Levels:

Infra sonic waves typically require high energy levels to achieve effective cleaning. However, this energy is not always expressed directly in decibels. Since decibels measure perceived noise, and infra sonic waves are inaudible, the main considerations are sound frequency and energy propagation.

Performance and Safety:

In some applications, the sound pressure level (dB) must exceed a certain threshold to ensure effectiveness and safety. This threshold varies significantly based on the specific application and cleaning system design. Infra sonic cleaning systems are tailored to suit the type, amount, and density of the material to be cleaned, emphasizing overall performance and cleaning efficiency rather than a fixed decibel value.

Application in Ash and Slag Cleaning

The use of infra sonic waves in boiler ash and slag cleaning is a technique being explored to enhance efficiency in power generation facilities. This method relies on infra sonic (extremely low-frequency) sound waves to break down and clean accumulated ash and slag layers.

Resonance Effect:

Infra sonic waves create vibrations at the resonance frequency of the materials, disrupting the structure of the deposits and facilitating their detachment from surfaces.

This approach not only improves the cleaning process but also enhances the efficiency and sustainability of energy production systems by reducing operational downtime and maintaining cleaner heat transfer surfaces.

Advantages of This Method

- **Reduction or Elimination of Chemical Usage:** Infra sonic cleaning reduces or entirely eliminates the need for chemical agents.
- Lower Labor and Equipment Requirements: Compared to physical cleaning methods, it requires less manpower and fewer resources.
- Improved Boiler Efficiency and Energy Production: The method has the potential to enhance boiler performance and optimize energy output.
- **Reduced Environmental Impact:** By minimizing the need for chemicals and improving efficiency, this method supports environmentally friendly operations.

This technology is particularly valuable in facilities with high ash and slag production, such as **coal-fired power plants**. Infra sonic cleaning enables boilers to operate efficiently for extended periods, reducing maintenance and downtime. Additionally, it can help optimize emissions and fuel consumption.

Considerations for Application

The effectiveness and feasibility of infra sonic cleaning depend on factors such as the **boiler design, operating conditions, and the properties of accumulated materials**. Evaluating the suitability of this method for a specific facility requires detailed research and pilot testing. Studies in academic literature and industrial applications provide further insights into the potential benefits of this approach.

Sonic vs. Infra Sonic Sootblowers

Both sonic and infra sonic sootblowers are technologies used to clean deposits such as ash, slag, and soot from industrial boilers, heat exchangers, and exhaust systems. The primary distinction between the two lies in the frequency of the sound waves they employ, each with unique advantages and limitations.

Sonic Sootblowers

- **Frequency:** Operates within the range of 20 Hz to 20 kHz, which is audible to the human ear.
- **Mechanism:** Produces high-frequency sound waves that vibrate and loosen deposits adhered to equipment surfaces.

Advantages:

- Effectively cleans deposits like ash, soot, and slag.
- Carries a lower risk of wear compared to physical cleaning methods.

Infra Sonic Sootblowers

- Frequency: Operates below 20 Hz, which is inaudible to humans.
- **Mechanism:** Generates low-frequency sound waves that resonate with deposits, breaking them apart and detaching them from surfaces.

Advantages:

- Capable of cleaning hard-to-reach corners and surfaces due to the extensive propagation of low-frequency waves.
- Requires less energy and equipment compared to high-frequency or physical methods.

Both methods offer significant benefits depending on the specific application and operating environment, with infra sonic technology excelling in challenging, large-scale industrial cleaning scenarios.

The effectiveness of the system can vary depending on the type and density of the material being cleaned.

In general, **infrasonic blowers** are often preferred because they provide effective cleaning over larger areas without causing noise pollution. However, both systems should be optimized according to specific application needs and operational conditions.

Factors such as cleaning requirements, the location and structural characteristics of the equipment, operating costs, and the expected cleaning efficiency play a significant role in determining which system is more suitable.