

Pharmaceutical

Lifting column facilitates dryer installation and handling

Problems often occur when new production equipment has to be installed in existing buildings. The old rooms are not high enough and opening the ceiling at the desired location may be impossible or too complicated. Imagine installing in an old production building a centrifuge on top of a cone dryer which is to be discharged into drums or containers.

The solution may be an AVA cone dryer on a pivoting lifting column. The dryer is swivelled under the centrifuge, locked to its discharge chute and filled over several cycles. For drying the connection to the centrifuge is released, the dryer is lowered and moved out of the centrifuge area. The dryer's slewability requires flexible and slewable connections for the dryer's heating and for the exhaust gas line. For its discharge the dryer is lifted on the column to allow the placement and connection of drums or other containers. The use of split butterfly valves for charging and discharge permits the handling of class 3 products without the need for workers' protective clothing. Retractable CIP nozzles on the dryer's top head and the running of the agitator at high speed guarantee a thorough cleaning in a closed system thereby facilitating a quick product change.

Dryers on lifting columns can usually be installed in existing production facilities without the need to open ceilings. The system requires lower floor to ceiling heights than a fixed installation of the two components. In one of the latest projects the centrifuge remains idle during the entire drying process. It could just as well be operated without the dryer connection and the product be discharged into an intermediate vessel. The centrifuge capacity can be maximised with two dryers each on its lifting column. They can be filled in turn and swivelled aside for drying.

