



## Load Trailers Automatically with Guided Vehicle System

### Features and Benefits

Significantly reduce product damage and labor costs

Flexible solution for changing demands at plant

Accommodates standard trailers and dock equipment

Safe, reliable and timely loading of trailers

**Industry Group:** Automatic Guided Vehicle Systems (AGVS)



*In addition to the expected cost savings, the AGVs have improved safety in the dock area.*

An automatic guided vehicle system (AGVS) was installed to automatically load trailers in a juice beverage plant. Pallets are picked up 24x7 directly from conveyors at the exit of the palletizing lines. The pallets are delivered into standard, over-the-road trailers.

Outside the trailers and in the warehouse, the AGVs navigate with accurate and flexible laser guidance. Laser guidance was preferred because it allowed the customer the flexibility to easily change the system without making any changes to the plant or trailers. Inside the truck the AGVs navigate via additional sensors which precisely control movement.

In addition to adapting to standard trailers, the system needs no special dock equipment. The standard dock equipment used by the manual fork lift trucks was also used by the AGVS.

The AGV Trailer loading system also accommodates multiple trailer loading patterns. Each load pair was offset to provide more even

weight distribution and less load shifting during transport.

The system typically moves 120 loads/hr, transporting pallets from 3 pick-up points to trailers at 5 dock locations. This system is scalable so larger and smaller throughputs can be accommodated by adjusting the number of vehicles.

The system was installed to reduce labor cost and product damage. All goals were met and the customer plans to automate additional facilities.



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