



Pharmaceutical Manufacturer Streamlines Production Lines With Back Saving Hydraulic Roll On Level Loaders

Features and Benefits

Increased Productivity

Reduction in Wasted Motion

Improved Ergonomics

Industry Group: Ergonomic Assist
Systems and Equipment (EASE)



A manufacturer of prescription drugs, recently added state-of-the-art work positioning tables to prevent back strain for its employees working on production lines. Since the addition of seven customized roll on Level Loaders there has been a lot less bending and lifting at the plant.

The Problem:

High production volumes mean employees can lift 1.5 tons per week, and variations in packaging keep them on their toes. For example, a liquid may be packaged in single-dose plastic cups, a multiple-dose plastic or glass bottles, or injection vials. Although filling and sealing are automated, the empty, containers have to be removed from boxes and stacked on skids and steadily added to the line. At the other end, full, containers have to be packaged in new boxes and stacked on skids. One box of bottles can weigh up to 40 pounds. Until last fall, all production lines required continual leaning, bending, lifting, and twisting by production line employees of different ages, heights, and genders. Repetitive walking with heavy boxes was also necessary as the only way to get a box to or from the far side of a skid was to carry it there.

The Solution:

“The employees have really been appreciative of these units.” “Not having to bend down and do all that lifting has made a huge difference in their morale. They see that we are taking an interest in

their health and safety and providing them with the new equipment to make their jobs easier, as well as safer. Although it's too early for firm statistics, we expect the addition of the level loaders to reduce back injuries in this area of manufacture. Less injuries, safer worker conditions, combined with the obvious increase in productivity makes this project a winner any way you look at it."

SOUTHWORTH

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