



## **Mezzanine Pallet Access Gate Ensures OSHA & ANSI Compliance while Accommodating Tall Pallet Loads**

### **Features and Benefits**

Permanently Secure Ledges of Pallet Drop Areas

Accommodates Tall Pallet Loads

**Industry Group:** Protective Guarding Manufacturers Association (ProGMA)



Lift-out gates used to secure mezzanine pallet access areas were constantly being left open for a leading provider of products and services supporting the health care industry. In the distribution centers for this \$38 billion company (where products for patient care are developed, manufactured and packaged) elevated platforms used opening in the guardrails to allow palletized material to be lifted and stored. “We were using „lift-out“ mezzanine guardrail sections,” said the company’s Facilities Project Manger. “These sections were heavy and cumbersome. We needed to find a simple and cost-effective means to ensure employee safety without negatively affecting production.”

After enlisting the help from a material handling consulting firm to evaluate solutions, the company decided to install counterbalanced, dual-gate mezzanine safety gate systems to permanently secure the areas. The consultants had determined that any other single-gate system shared the same deficiencies as the existing lift-out gates because the single gate could be left open, creating a fall protection risk, as is the case for a sliding or swinging gates. By comparison, a dual gate system

ensures that a barrier is always in place to secure the ledge without depending on the operator to make an effort to close the safety barrier.

One concern on this project, however, was that tall pallet loads were being lifted up to the mezzanine so the safety gate would need to clear tall pallets without being too tall for an operator to reach. The solution was a high-pallet version of a pivoting dual-gate system. This high-pallet version included additional pivot points (14 of them) that allowed the gates to clear the taller pallets while still being ergonomically positioned for operation.

The result of the safety gate installation allowed the end user to maintain a safe environment that ensured OSHA and ANSI compliance while not impeding on productivity. As expressed by the facilities manager after the safety gate installation, "We insist that our employees work in a very safe environment. And with the installation of the safety gates we have not experienced a loss in production, so we could easily justify the cost of the gates." This safety device is now specified for all of elevated platforms in their distributions centers.



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