



Complete, Clean Solution for Food Processing

Industry Group: Ergonomic Assist Systems and Equipment (EASE)



"We immediately doubled our processing capabilities, without adding anyone to the workcell"

A popular manufacturer of processed cheese products was struggling with productivity on a production line that feeds 640 pound blocks of bulk Mozzarella and Cheddar cheese into a shredding machine for packaging into household-sized consumer products.



Under their previous system, cheese was brought in one block at a time on small pallets, using electric lift trucks, and was delivered directly onto the conveyor

belt. The trucks then left the area and returned with another block. To keep the conveyors full, several trucks ran continually, feeding two separate conveyor lines. The trucks were constantly in each other's way, and the conveyors remained underutilized. After exploring the cost of additional trucks, the company came to Ingersoll Rand looking for an alternate solution.

Because of the clean environment required in the room, Ingersoll Rand recommended an all-aluminum, ceiling mounted Overhead Rail Workstation, air balancers that require no lubrication and therefore exhaust no oil into the environment, and custom Stainless Steel handling devices to clamp the cheese. A tandem reeved balancer system was used to lift the 640 lb blocks of cheese at the fastest rate possible for placement onto the conveyor. The large coverage area of the rail system allowed two lift trucks to leave the cheese blocks in que within easy reach of the operator but well away from the conveyors and the other truck.

The total cost of the solution was less than the cost of an additional truck and driver, resulting in an immediate savings to the company. The solution requires minimal maintenance (unlike the electric lift trucks) and is a safer, more environmentally clean solution.



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