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# New Fully Automated Distribution Center Packerland Packing Company, Green Bay, WI

References

Nº 56



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References

**Food Processor**  
New Installations



## Cold Storage Warehouse System

### Initial Situation

The Packerland Packing Company of Green Bay, WI was facing a number of operating challenges. In addition to a lack of space in their current facility, Packerland was hand palletizing 100% of their product volume, a very labor intensive operation.

Packerland contracted viastore, Inc. to assist in designing an automated system to integrate into a new cold storage distribution center.



### System Solution

viastore engineers were able to design an automatic palletizing system capable of handling an anticipated 50% of this volume. viastore developed a solution consisting of 3 slat sorters and 24 palletizer buffer accumulation lanes connected to the production facility through an overhead tunnel.

viastore's custom designed double-deck conveyor system allowed over 4,000 linear feet of conveyor for the sortation and staging lanes to be installed on a 13,800 sq. ft. mezzanine.

viastore's system transports mixed products to the new distribution center at a rate of 30 cases per minute. Low volume products (less than a pallet load) travel to a manual stack off area. High volume products are then sorted via a pre-sorter to the appropriate level where they are accumulated until a full pallet load is present, at which time the entire load is released to the palletizer.

The system was designed with unique features to accommodate the -20°F environment in the distribution center. To deter ice buildup, pallet accumulation was achieved with electric "lift and hold" equipment instead of pneumatic devices. Motors are oversized and equipped with heaters to breakup any icing conditions. VFD's were used throughout the system to ensure pallet load stability during start/stop transitions.

### The Result

Within a week of start up, the facility was automatically palletizing at designed capacity. Today, Packerland is able to automatically palletize up to 98% of their volume.

### Essential Features:

% Automatically Palletized  
– 2nd Shift – 98% max, 82% average  
– 1st Shift – 85% max, 75% average

Overtime – decreased from 1500 hrs per pay period to 330 hrs per pay period