

QUICK FACTS

COMPANY: Ocean Spray; Lakeville-Middleboro, Mass.	GOALS: Increase safety at nine loading dock bays in the Tomah facility while improving overall efficiencies
FOUNDED: 1930	SOLUTION: Rite-Hite Dok-Lok® Vehicle Restraints with the Rite-Vu Light Communication System
FACILITY: Food and beverage manufacturing facility in Tomah, Wis.	RESULTS: The Rite-Vu system enables forklift operators to see when it is safe to enter and exit a trailer, avoiding unnecessary mistakes and injuries. In addition, Ocean Spray has realized savings when it comes to staffing and resource costs because workers no longer have to leave the facility to check trailer restraint status.
PRODUCT: 150 to 180 loads of fruit are processed through the facility during peak harvest season	

THE SITUATION

Every autumn, one of the world's largest receiving stations for fruit in Tomah, Wis., is responsible for processing more than 40 percent of Ocean Spray's annual Wisconsin harvest. During peak harvest, as much as 150 to 180 loads of fruit may be cleaned, processed and shipped per day. As a result, the Tomah station requires a seamless process, incorporating the highest safety standards.

"The harvest season is extremely fast-paced. We recognized the need to develop a better system for communication that was safe and efficient," said Leroy Kummer, receiving station manager, Ocean Spray.

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Dok-Lok restraints with Corner-Vu and Leveler-Vu lights improve safety and increase efficiency with clear communication.

THE SOLUTION

To prevent trailer separation accidents and to increase communication at the loading dock, Ocean Spray invested in Dok-Lok vehicle restraints with the Rite-Vu Communication System. The Rite-Vu system incorporates Corner-Vu and Leveler-Vu lights that clearly communicate vehicle restraint status. Corner-Vu notifies the forklift driver that the Dok-Lok is secured and it is safe to enter the trailer. Located in the upper corners of the overhead door, Corner-Vu is always visible without obstructions. It also gives facility managers a concise, “at-a-glance” status of the restraints at every dock position.

Leveler-Vu lights confirm the Dok-Lok restraint status as forklift drivers exit the trailer. Mounted on the dock leveler for easier visibility, it provides a solid reference point for backing out.

“Prior to the Rite-Vu system, you never knew when a trailer was at the dock. There are a lot of safety issues that can occur when things are moving at such an increased pace to meet the demands of the harvest season,” Kummer

explained. “Using the system enables drivers to see when it is safe to enter and exit a trailer, avoiding unnecessary mistakes and injuries.”

In addition to increased safety, the Ocean Spray facility has realized that the system also saves on staffing and resource costs.

“The added efficiency aspect is great,” Kummer said. “Because we have one communication system, we have reduced the need for dock workers to be running in and out checking on wheels or trailer status to unlock full trailers.”

The Rite-Vu Communication System has improved the proficiencies of the receiving station and has created a safe working environment for both the drivers and the dock workers.

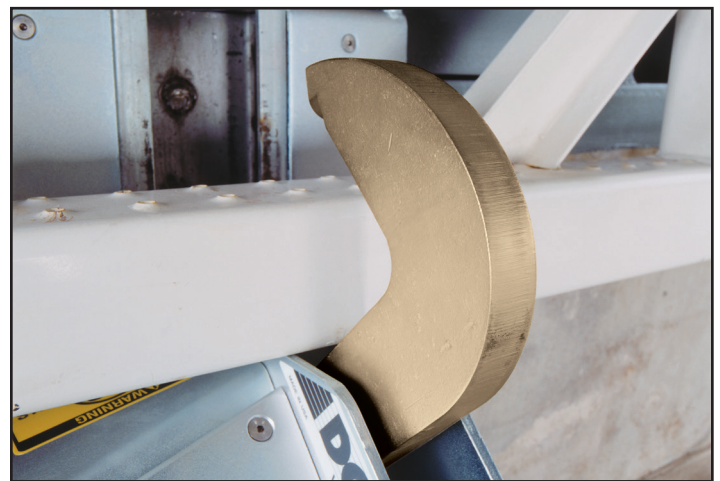
“It was essential to have a good, safe communication system. We’re very pleased with the enhancements it has given us here in Tomah,” Kummer said.

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Corner-Vu lights (like those shown here) clearly indicate whether it is safe for a forklift operator to enter a trailer.



Dok-Lok vehicle restraints help prevent trailer separation accidents at the loading dock by wrapping around rear-impact guards.