

New Kelley Dock Lift Provides Functional Reliability for Medical Research School's Supply Deliveries

Equipment Focus: Kelley KDL Series Dock Lift

An active receiving dock at a leading medical research school in the Midwestern U.S. deserves a highly reliable dock lift to handle a wide range of incoming supplies and equipment.

After more than 25 years of service, the school's previous dock lift faced mounting and costly maintenance issues to keep it in operation. The equipment's lift cylinders required frequent servicing due to oil leak issues. In addition, spare parts for the cylinders were no longer available.

Increasing maintenance costs justified purchasing a replacement dock lift, according to one of the school's facilities engineering department supervisors who oversees a team of HVAC technicians and is also responsible for the maintenance of equipment such as the school's Kelley dock lift.



"The cost difference between persistent maintenance requirements and a new lift was only a few thousand dollars," the supervisor explained, "so the cost of the new lift was easily justifiable to eliminate the ongoing need for service calls to keep it functioning properly."

[Bi-State Loading Dock Specialists](#) replaced the old dock lift with a new [Kelley KDL Series Hydraulic Dock Lift](#) (84" wide x 120" long platform) which was installed in a u-shaped concrete pit.



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Impacts & Results



End User Focus: **Increased Reliability**

Uninterrupted and reliable lift operation means more efficient unloading for supply deliveries.



Key Impact: **Enhanced Safety**

Handrails and dual safety chains ensure secure operation for medical research staff and other personnel.



Financial Benefit: **Cost Savings**

Ongoing repairs and maintenance needs due to faulty lift cylinders eliminated.

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The dock lift's travel height is approximately five feet. When lowered to floor level, the dock lift can easily accept deliveries

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brought in with vehicles that require unloading them onto a cart. A loaded cart can then be rolled onto the dock lift platform, raised to the upper floor level, and then rolled off for transport to its destination.

“Because the receiving dock is in a medical research building, it receives a constant flow of supplies and is quite active during the day,” the supervisor said. “And since the supplies are not necessarily heavy, the Kelley dock lift can easily handle any capacity of supplies that are being delivered.”

He further added, “The old dock lift would often get stuck while being raised or lowered and couldn't be returned to the level needed to manage supply deliveries. The new Kelley dock lift has since worked out great for the school's research staff.”

Important safety considerations

In addition, the supervisor stressed the importance of the Kelley dock lift's safety features including a strut for propping up the dock lift from underneath for any servicing requirements. He also pointed out that even though the dock lift's handrails were initially removable (which is how Kelley ships its dock lifts), it was decided for safety reasons to weld them on so that they could not be easily removed.

“Our school has an extensive safety program and we wanted to make extra sure that our new dock lift meets all of the proper safety requirements,” the supervisor concluded.



[Kelley KDL Series Hydraulic Dock Lifts](#) make product handling and loading operations more efficient in applications where space is restricted. Dock lifts are a cost-effective alternative to space-consuming concrete ramps and can accommodate a wide variety of truck sizes and styles from pickups to standard semi-trailers and more. Kelley KDL Series Hydraulic Dock Lifts can be pit or surface-mounted inside the building or in front of the loading dock for optimal versatility and feature:

- Removable handrails
- Beveled toe guards (for pit mounted applications)
- Dual hydraulic lifting cylinders for optimum performance
- Dual safety chains across operating ends
- 18" standard solid or split bridge plate
- Velocity fuses on lift cylinders prevent uncontrolled descent
- Manual lowering valve lowers the lift in the event of power loss
- Upper travel limit switch
- Maintenance safety device
- 10-year structural warranty

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