



Serco Zero Lift Table Helps School District Maximize Storage Space for Salt Supplies

Features and Benefits

- Lift table lowers to ground level with a ½-inch lowered height for easy loading and unloading of wheeled carts or pallet jacks.
- 4,000 lb. capacity to handle heavy pallet loads.
- Ideal for two-elevation applications.
- Up travel limit switch.
- Full reservoir of hydraulic oil on board.
- Pre-wired power unit with UL approved electrical panel
- Velocity fuses on all cylinders to prevent uncontrolled descent.

Industry Group:

Lift Manufacturers Product Group (LIFT)

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The Ephrata Area School District relies on a Serco 4,000 lb. capacity Zero Lift Table to lower and raise pallets of salt supplies.

School district personnel are always looking for ways to save money, including ordering operating supplies in bulk. That means they must maximize the amount of storage space that's available for such large quantities.

According to Jim Kline of the Ephrata Area School District (northeast of Lancaster, Pa.), competition for storage space at the district's middle school, in particular, is a constant challenge. Kline not only supervises all of the district's plumbing work, but he's also responsible for its annual supply of salt for water softening and ice melting.

Two elevation challenge

Kline stores the salt supplies in the middle school's basement because it's central to all of the district's other buildings. However, the middle school's basement storage area has two elevations. Supplies are delivered to a receiving dock on the main level or highest elevation. They then must be transferred to a 1,500 square foot storage area that's three feet lower than the receiving level.

Up until three years ago, the salt supplies were delivered in smaller quantities to facilitate storing them via a short stairway. But that process was inconvenient, awkward and inefficient. “We knew that we had to look for something that could help us better utilize the space we had,” Kline pointed out.

Kline said the district considered permanently raising the lower elevation with stone and concrete. They also thought about installing steel beams with a deck, but both options meant the costly process of moving mechanical equipment which wasn't feasible. In addition, a ramp would have taken up too much storage space.

The district chose a very simple yet effective solution: a Serco Zero Lift Table that not only occupies a minimal amount of floor space but easily lowers a heavy pallet of salt supplies to the storage area's second level. The Serco Zero Lift Table was obtained from distributor Lift, Inc. (Mountville, Pa.)

Once supplies are lowered, Kline uses a pallet jack to remove the supplies off of the lift for storage. Conversely, the lift table elevates supplies to the upper level of the basement when he's preparing to distribute them to all of the other buildings throughout the district.

Lift table maximizes available storage space

Various district departments use the middle school's basement storage area as well, which is somewhat climate controlled. "The lift table really helps maximize using all parts of the basement," Kline explained, "because it allows us to store a large quantity of supplies on pallets instead of smaller quantities on shelves which isn't the best use of space."

The lift now enables Kline to receive and handle approximately 25 pallets of ice melt and 16 pallets of water softener salt each school year. The district's 4,000 lb. capacity lift table easily handles each pallet of ice melt product with 65 bags at 40 lbs. each for a total of 2,600 lbs.

"Before we installed the lift, we typically ordered only two or three pallets of product at a time or we distributed smaller quantities to other storage areas like sheds which don't have any climate control," Kline explained. "Keeping our salt products centrally stored, and buying in larger volume, helps us get a better price which saves money."

Kline further pointed out that he likes the lifts "zero" access design with a ½-inch lowered height which allows him to easily approach the lift with a pallet jack to load or unload pallets.

"We didn't have to modify or disturb our existing floor in any way to accommodate the lift table," Kline said. "We just secured it in place where we needed it, hooked it up to available power and started using it. The lift's allowed us to better utilize the storage space we already had and has been an excellent investment. We're very happy with the results that we've achieved."



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