



Intralox's Arb Merge Eliminates Poly-bag Jams For a Large Retail Distribution Center

Features and Benefits

Eliminated jamming of poly bags

Increased efficiency

Decreased labor needs

Industry Group: Order Fulfillment Solutions (OFS)



A prominent retail-clothing customer was preparing to open a new 330,000 sq. ft. distribution center to handle its rapidly expanding web-based business.

Challenge

At its distribution centers, the retailer routinely handled clothing packed in polyethylene bags. Because poly bags lack flat bottoms, they could not be effectively conveyed along the conventional rollers that the retailer was utilizing. Difficulties arose at merges as the bags slipped underneath the fixed deflector, jamming the system. To minimize this issue, poly bags were collected into totes that were then conveyed to the end of the line; there, an individual operator manually sorted the bagged products. However, at its new distribution center, the retailer sought to increase efficiencies by merging poly bags without jams or manual sortation and without placing bags in totes.

Solution

Working through an integrator, the customer chose Intralox's Activated Roller Belt™ (ARB™) technology as its solution. Rollers embedded within Intralox's ARB Merge S7000 ensure accurate, gentle, and reliable merging for a wide range of product types and sizes. With the ARB Merge, non-rigid packages—such as poly bags, pouches, plastic shells, and items wrapped in shrink film—can be handled without the use of pads, trays, or totes. The

retailer chose the Intralox poly-bag conveyance solution over several other options.

Results

Since installing the ARB Merge in early 2011, the retailer's poly bag- related issues have become a thing of the past. Poly bags no longer jam at the merge, and the need for manual sortation has been eliminated. The customer has commissioned similar projects at other warehouses.



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