

Case study: Leased Premises



Samsonite European Distribution Centre Belgium

form that lifts the person loading the trailer up to a comfortable work height. Integral lighting ensures that the work conditions are optimal.

Vehicles are restrained by Rite-Hite Wheel-Loks during the loading process, so that trailer creep and premature departure is not a risk.

In 2010 space in the unloading area was liberated so that telescopic conveyors could be installed here too.

Inbound – flexible & ergonomic... The bottleneck in the inbound flow is always palletising. Using a Caljan telescopic conveyor a single person can unload a container with ease, but usually four or five people are necessary to sort and palletise the items.

In one of the warehouses the unloading process has been automated. Items travelling along the conveyor are lifted by an elevator and moved to the correct rack. There is complete coordination between the conveyor and the elevator. The momentum from the belt is sufficient to push the box into the elevator, when the sensor registers that the elevator is in position and empty.

Men and women employed at Samsonite's Distribution Centre at Oudenaarde in Belgium have been using Caljan telescopic belt conveyors to load containers and trailers since 2002. The boxes may contain a single suitcase, perhaps a lightweight model weighing only 3 or 4 kgs, or they may be larger multipacked boxes weighing up to 22 kgs – which is the limit Samsonite's safety regulations permit employees to handle.

At Samsonite a healthy work environment is a must. The whole supply chain is subject to the same safety principles. If an item exceeds the prescribed load restrictions it is marked as heavy and handled with care. Although picking is manual, all items are transported automatically to the waiting trucks, ending at the telescopic conveyor.

Outbound – flexible, ergonomic and accurate... A cantilevered telescopic conveyor that hovers over the leveller, rather than a conveyor that moves along the floor, is ideal for gates that are used for both loose-loaded and pallet traffic. To give additional flexibility, each Caljan telescopic conveyor is suspended on gallow rails, so that it can travel between doors. This solution is particularly advantageous if the premises are leased or if the floor is unable to bear the forces.

A scanner suspended above the telescopic conveyor scans the barcode on each box to verify that the contents loaded into the trailer match the shipping documents. Incorrect items are rejected to a side chute. The conveyor is fitted with a ManRider plat-

The difference between CARING and cherishing is CALJAN

Germain Ghys, Manager European Distribution Center



“Even with the challenge of putting the puzzle together, combining small cartons and big cartons so that space is utilized in the best way possible; we manage to load about 25 cartons per minute, which is quite a speed. With the Caljan conveyors this process is not only fast, its ergonomic.”

Our main driver for installing Caljan telescopic conveyors was to provide better working conditions for employees. We can see that sick leave, related to loading trucks, has been reduced significantly. Even better; the job can now be done by both male or female employees. In the past only male blue-collar could do the job.

The conveyors move smoothly and uniformly, guided by the gallow rails at the front and the heavy-duty wheels at the back. This was an ideal solution. As the building is leased, we didn't want to have a rail embedded in the floor. The facilities didn't need to be adapted in any way. We investigated a number of companies who can supply similar equipment, but for us it was clear that we shouldn't accept a poorer quality. Caljan has become our standard.”



Scan the QR code to see the conveyor in action on site at Samsonite.

SAMSONITE European Distribution Centre

The centre at Oudenaarde is used to store approx. 5,000 varieties of suitcases, all packed in individual cardboard boxes. Distributors and specialised stores can order the mix that suits their needs. All orders are managed by means of a barcode labelling system.

The distribution centre unloads – and loads – a variety of trailers from quite small up to 45 foot, including high cube. At each gate, the vehicle restraint, door and leveller work as a single unit to provide the safest possible conditions for the vehicle driver & the forklift driver or the operator of the telescopic belt conveyor standing on the platform.

On average 40-50 units are loaded or unloaded each day. The total volume is probably about 2,300 m³.

Safety is a natural element of the Samsonite culture.



Handling loose-loaded cargo with ease

Denmark (HQ)

Caljan Rite-Hite ApS
Ved Milepælen 6-8
DK-8361 Hasselager, Aarhus
T +45 87 38 78 00
E info@caljanritehite.com

CS0049-01_GB • 08/2016
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