

# CASE STUDY



## SØSTRENE GRENE, DENMARK



### STATE-OF-THE-ART STORAGE AND DISTRIBUTION CENTRE

Emptying more than 300 containers each year is something of a challenge. Especially when the goods are loose-loaded to ensure that every square centimeter of the container is utilized to its utmost. Tightly packed boxes of various sizes and weights need to be categorized and moved into the storage area.

Søstrene Grene wanted to create a state-of-the-art storage and distribution centre when they built new facilities in 2006. Caljan Rite-Hite were asked to advise on the optimal way to unload containers.

#### Safe and ergonomic operation

Often there are over 1,000 boxes of exotic items in each container. Some boxes are rather heavy. For example kidney shaped deck brushes – a box of which weighs 14.8 kg. In keeping with their business concept, Søstrene Grene want to provide the best possible working conditions for their employees. This means that containers must be unloaded ergonomically and with a minimum of effort. Growth in capacity is expected, preferably without increasing the number of employees, so effectivity is also an issue.

Aesthetics are important to Søstrene Grene, which is certainly reflected in the clean, light and airy 4000 m<sup>2</sup> storage facility. This means that the conveyor should be reasonably compact and tidy when not in use.

Caljan Rite-Hite suggested that Søstrene Grene install a Caljan BeltTrack with four sections. With an extendability of 14.7 metres, this telescopic conveyor can reach into all types of container and truck. A droop snoot fitted to the head of the conveyor enables the operator to adjust the height of the belt to suit, so that unnecessary lifting is avoided.

Although some 300 containers are unloaded each year, 50 - 60% of this number arrive at the premises during a short period in the summer months. To cope with peak periods, Caljan Rite-Hite suggested that the conveyor be fitted on rails so that it can traverse from door to door. This feature means that when one container is unloaded, the conveyor can be moved to the next door with little effort and in a very short time.



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## Kjeld Nielsen, Søstrene Grene

»Caljan Rite-Hite recommended that we install a Caljan BeltTrack CB4X telescopic conveyor, fitted on a rail so that it could traverse to service four doors. This means that we can unload a container at one door, move the machine to the next door and continue unloading. We're able to unload a typical container in about an hour.« says Kjeld Nielsen, Store Manager at Søstrene Grene. He continues »Involving the workforce in the purchase process is the only way to ensure a good result. We needed a solution that would ease the workload without compromising on speed. The Caljan BeltTrack we've installed does the job perfectly. The team of operators consider it to be ergonomic and easy to use. They also note that it saves them a great deal of time as they can work more effectively. Management are fully satisfied too. This investment has more than paid for itself.«

## Søstrene Grene, Denmark

Søstrene Grene was launched in the Danish city of Aarhus in 1973 by two sisters; Anna and Clara Grene. The original concept was to offer customers a variety of price-sensitive goods at reasonable prices – creating Denmark's first discount store. Later, the level of ambition began to rise, and focus was directed towards the aesthetics of the presentation of the products which today characterizes Søstrene Grene. Products were mixed in an aesthetic connection rather than by product category as known from other stores. Søstrene Grene purchase large quantities directly from the manufacturer, at low prices. All products must comply with certain aesthetic and qualitative demands. Today Søstrene Grene has 23 stores in Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Denmark.



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