

CASE STUDY



GLOBAL WHEEL-LOK — AMCOR FLEXIBLES, DK



The volume of trucks docking at Amcor each day is not unusually large. However, as storage facilities are limited, goods are transferred directly from the production line to waiting trucks or containers. This means that trucks are often docked for a longer period of time as fork-lift trucks drive in and out with pallets.



International distribution means that many of the truck drivers are not local, which implies communication problems.

To improve safety, Amcor wanted to install a device that could securely retain the truck and/or trailer whilst it was being loaded – without relying on communication between the drivers of the forklift and the truck.

FAIL-SAFE VEHICLE RESTRAINT THAT DOESN'T RELY ON COMMUNICATION

Ensuring safe work conditions

Often safety issues are only addressed when an accident has happened. This unfortunate attitude is not practised at Amcor. Here safety is a core value, Amcor comply not only with national, but with international laws and regulations at all their manufacturing facilities. Amcor Flexibles has its own safety organisation, focusing on improving work conditions for the approx. 400 employees who work at the Horsens plant.



Their goal is »no accidents at work«. They are proud of their achievements in the safety area — which are proudly displayed at the entrance of their building. At the time of writing, 0 hours have been lost due to accidents and 1185 days have elapsed since an accident, which is their current record.

Tonny Nielsen, production leader, is fully aware that the loading and unloading zone is a high risk area. To improve safety – and in particular the safety of the fork-lift truck drivers – Tonny Nielsen decided to install a vehicle retainer. Various solutions were considered, including a light communication system and a claw vehicle restraint. A light system was considered to be insufficient as the driver could overlook the light. A claw or hooking device could only be used if the truck was equipped with a rear impact guard. A restraint that locked the wheels themselves was considered to be the safest and most versatile solution. After checking to make sure that no other company could supply the same quality of vehicle restraint at a more favourable price, Amcor placed an order for Global Wheel-Lok with Caljan Rite-Hite.

Test installation first step to best practice

Two test units were installed at the plant in Horsens in the spring of 2008. If the impressive results continue, Tonny Nielsen will suggest that Global Wheel-Lok becomes best practice. Amcor use best practice to ensure that the whole group of companies use the most efficient and effective equipment or method to accomplish a given task. Each year various suggestions, presented by employees, are considered and the five that are deemed the best – comparing the cost with the risk involved – are implemented as standard throughout the group.

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AMCOR FLEXIBLES

Tonny Nielsen, Production leader, Amcor Flexibles

»We're very happy with our decision to install Global Wheel-Lok. The fork-lift driver can now enter and leave the trailer, knowing that it is tightly locked to the building. There is absolutely no danger of the truck driver leaving the premises whilst the fork-lift is still in the trailer – which I have heard has happened on occasion at other companies.

Some of the truck drivers are a little wary the first time they engage Global Wheel-Lok, as a little more acceleration is required to leave the dock. More than one of the foreign truck drivers has tried to leave whilst the trailer is locked in place. Obviously, as the Global Wheel-Lok can resist a pull-out force of more than 14,500 kg, this is not possible. It has certainly given us the opportunity to thoroughly test the installation. I am impressed with the performance of the Global Wheel-Lok and convinced that installing vehicle restraints will soon be part of Amcor's best practice.«

Amcor Flexibles

Amcor Ltd is a leading global packaging manufacturer with an annual turnover in excess of 9 billion Australian dollars (approx. 4.4 billion Euro). With production facilities in 38 countries and more than 21,000 employees world-wide, safety is very much in focus.

Responsibility for safety and the environment is one of the company's core values. Each year 5 ideas that improve employee safety are elevated to *best practice* and implemented throughout the group.

Part of the group, Amcor Flexibles produces flexible packaging at a state-of-the-art plant in Denmark, primarily for the food industry.

Health and safety practices at this plant exceed relevant occupational health and safety laws and regulations, ensuring that everything practical is done to prevent injury from unsafe practices, machinery or harmful elements in the work environment. To ensure the successful implementation of this policy, employees are encouraged to actively participate in ensuring the safety of their workplace.



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