

Integrated Warehouse Solutions

Integrated warehouse solution ensures safe working environment for Eurocell

BACKGROUND

Derbyshire-based Eurocell is a leading manufacturer, distributor, and recycler of uPVC windows, doors, conservatories and roofline products. The company was looking to increase its storage capacity to support ongoing growth and instigated a major investment programme resulting in the purchase of a new warehouse facility to act as its national distribution hub. With the new facility secured, the company looked to provide extra support to its national branch network and its fabrication customers. But first, it needed to maximise the efficiency of its new 22,500sqm storage facility.

CHALLENGE

Eurocell's product portfolio consists of profile lengths of uPVC which are stored on stillages, typically 6m x 1m, with a weight load on each stillage of 1.5 tonnes. The product is difficult to store on standard pallet racks due to the need to stabilise the racks with uprights. The pick and replenish process used by Eurocell involved picking from the narrow stillage face but replenishing from the wide face.

For a solution, it turned to Quickline to help design a solution that would overcome its storage challenges. The solution involved the installation of the mobile cantilever racking system designed by Ferretto, known as Cantifer. The system supports the weight load and enables an operator to access the pick side of the stillage. By installing the cantilever racking, which reaches a height of 11.5m, on mobile bases, it enabled Eurocell to maximise the available storage space, whilst futureproofing the warehouse against further expansion of the business.

In total, 14,322 cantilever arms were fitted, alongside 750 columns and 260 mobile bases.

Protecting the racking was particularly important, as was ensuring a safe working environment for all personnel in the warehouse.

SOLUTION

With the multi-million-pound installation of the bespoke racking complete, Quickline turned its attention to the safety of the warehouse. It consulted long-standing supply partner, Warehouse Partners on what the best safety options were for the new facility. Warehouse Partners already enjoyed an understanding of the warehouse design, having worked with Eurocell and Quickline on a unique labelling solution for the new racking. (continues over)





Warehouse Partners

“Our trusted relationship with Warehouse Partners enabled us to work together on an effective solution that more than met the brief supplied by our client. The effective solution has added value to the client’s new operation.”

Adam Jagger, Director, Quickline



SOLUTION (cont)

Using its expertise in effective warehouse solutions, Warehouse Partners identified a suite of measures necessary to ensure the safety of both personnel and product.

Chris Hopkirk, Sales Director, Warehouse Partners said: *“After thoroughly assessing what was required, we recommended the installation of a complete suite of safety solutions, including line marking, barriers, zebra crossings, signage and external Armco barriers. The package also included the installation of special impact-absorbing polymer barriers.”*

Quickline also agreed to buy end-of-aisle netting to create a barrier to prevent personnel walking into the racking area.

Warehouse Partners also supplied bespoke stillage stops fixed to the cantilever columns.

Mr Hopkirk added: *“Quickline wanted a complete warehouse solution for their client, so it was natural they should turn to Warehouse Partners, which specialises in such solutions. We have a longstanding relationship with Quickline, and they came to us because they had confidence that we could supply the right solution.”*

“Early consultation with the customer is important because once we understand what operations are likely to take place within a warehouse, then we can identify the right solution for their needs. Once we have understood the volume, weight and activities performed on site, together with their material handling equipment, so we can supply the most appropriate solution.”

OUTCOME

The solutions installed and supplied by Warehouse Partners have helped to improve the safety of the new warehouse so that staff are protected and risk of damage to expensive stock is minimised.



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