

Boosting Efficiency with Improved Pallet Handling

Challenge

Keg 1 Colorado faced challenges with inbound supplier loads, including breakage, damaged pallets, and misaligned loads. Damaged cases required team members to rebuild pallets manually, a time-intensive process that hindered efficiency. The unpredictability made it hard to allocate labor or overtime for these issues.

To meet major account standards for big box retailers, Keg 1 Colorado had to transfer products from supplier pallets to CHEP pallets. Many package types couldn't be handled by their existing Tygard Claw, requiring manual transfers. This led to inefficiencies, resource pooling, unplanned overtime, higher costs, and reduced productivity.

Solution

The QTEK Bomber addressed Keg 1 Colorado's challenges by streamlining pallet handling. It quickly adapts to 48x40, 32x40, and 37x41 pallets with minimal conversion time, allowing loaders to isolate and fix damaged cases without disrupting workflow. Its air-driven mechanism reduces maintenance compared to hydraulics, improving reliability and uptime.

The Bomber grips more SKUs than Keg 1 Colorado's previous Tygard Claw, reducing manual intervention and ensuring efficient handling of diverse packages. With the Bomber, Keg 1 Colorado gained a reliable, versatile, and low-maintenance solution for managing complex inbound loads.

"We were moving over 32,000 cases per month by hand; now the Bomber takes care of that. The Bomber improves the morale and quality of life of my employees by reducing the physicality of accomplishing their goals."

-Director of Operations, Keg1 Colorado



Results

Implementing the Bomber delivered substantial financial and operational benefits for Keg 1 Colorado, leading to a projected **13-month ROI and \$372,000 in net benefits over five years**. Key outcomes included:



11x Faster Pallet Swaps: Reduced pallet swaps from 15 minutes to 90 seconds



Labor Efficiency: Inbound pallet realignment now requires one person instead of 2 to 3



Quicker Case Swaps: Damaged case swaps dropped from 10 to 2 minutes



40-Hour Overtime Cut: Reduced monthly overtime for the loading team



No Manual Case Handling: Eliminated daily hand-handling of cases, improving workflows

The Bomber transformed Keg 1 Colorado's pallet handling operations, delivering measurable time and cost savings while enhancing efficiency.



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