

A Better Approach to Pallet Handling at Valley Wide Beverage

Challenge

Valley Wide Beverage, a total beverage distributor, operates a high-volume warehouse environment where efficiency, safety, and consistency are critical to daily operations. However, their existing methods were creating unnecessary fatigue, slowing down picking efficiency, and prompting repeated safety risks.

Order selectors were required to manually retrieve empty pallets throughout their shifts, and each selector had to step on and off their pallet jack 25 to 35 times per shift to pull pallets from stacks, leading to thousands of manual touches per year. These repetitive motions not only impacted productivity but also increased exposure to lower-body injuries and contributed to 8 to 10 workers' compensation claims annually.

In addition, pallet staging created congestion at the front of high-velocity pick aisles. With 350 to 400 pallets stacked up to 14 high, the space became cluttered, limiting visibility and increasing the risk of pallet jack collisions.

Solution

Valley Wide Beverage partnered with Rehrig Pacific to implement four 23-foot, 32x40 Molson Coors Pallet Compatible, QTEK Pallet Dispensers to create a touchless pallet delivery process within the operation.

By integrating the dispensers into their pallet selection workflow, order selectors no longer needed to manually retrieve pallets. Instead, pallets were delivered in a controlled, consistent manner, improving flow, reducing unnecessary movement, and supporting a safer, more efficient picking environment. Its wide stringer design and steel reinforcement supported long-term use in a high-volume environment, reducing the need for ongoing maintenance and replacement.



Results



+5% Productivity Increase



\$53K Annual Productivity Savings



50% Faster Pallet Selection



Projected 80-90% reduction in workers' compensation exposure associated with manual pallet handling by order selectors



350-400 Pallets Removed from Floor Staging



Improved Traffic Flow and Visibility



Zero Operational Faults Across 1,800+ Cycles



16-Month ROI

"Valley Wide Beverage is committed to creating the best possible working environment for our employees. Bringing in the QTEK Pallet Dispenser, along with other technologies we've adopted, has made our warehouse a safer place to work while improving efficiency and productivity."

- Gary Madson, VP of Operations,
Valley Wide Beverage

