



Still “Easy” After All These Years: Underhung Easy Arm® Serving Pump Manufacturer Well

Industry:

Pump Manufacturing

Product:

Parts on paint line

The Problem:

Moving parts onto a conveyor all day taking toll

The Solution:

A Gorbelt Free Standing Underhung Easy Arm®



I Can Put Anyone On This Line and Know They Won't Have Any Problem

A pump manufacturer in the northeast U.S. was recently in the midst of a major factory redesign. Productivity flow and efficiency were the primary goals, and every work cell was subjected to a process review.

On the factory's paint line, operators were familiar with change. About 5 years prior, the physical demands of lifting heavy parts onto a moving conveyor all day was wearing down employees. A 150 pound capacity free standing Easy Arm® was installed, and the immediate result was a happier, healthier work force as they moved to the new product.

“We saw a quick, positive impact with the freestanding Easy Arm®,” said the manufacturing engineer.

When the paint line was reviewed for the new plant overhaul, it was clear that they could make an improvement. “We wanted another Easy Arm®,” said the manufacturing engineer. “The first one proved that it was the right product for the job, so we added another one to the application.”

The original freestanding Easy Arm® was moved around to the back end to unload the finish, painted parts from the line. In place of the original Easy Arm®, the company installed a small Gorbelt crane with three tracks to cover a longer stretch of the paint line conveyor. From one track, a 1000 pound capacity electric hoist is suspended to lift and move heavier loads.

From the other two tracks, the company now has a Gorbelt Underhung Easy Arm®, which travels the full length of the conveyor. The underhung style delivered all the same benefits of the previous freestanding model, but with the added mobility of being able to move along with the conveyor. The Underhung Easy Arm® was not new, but moved to this application from a previous facility.

“We loved the original Easy Arm®, but we realized we could do a better job staging our products and reducing forklift moves if we lined up several baskets of parts and had an Easy Arm® that could reach them all without repositioning. That was our primary goal, and it’s worked perfectly. Additionally, now that the Easy Arm® can move further along the conveyor, new employees who are on the paint line for the first time don’t have such a narrow window to hit the moving conveyor because they can move along the whole line.”

With two Easy Arms now serving the paint line, the company has reached their productivity and efficiency goals, and is still realizing other fringe benefits of the change.

“What I didn’t consider originally was the amount of flexibility we’ve gained with this work process using the Easy Arm®. I can pretty much put anybody on this job and know that they won’t have any problem with the moving and lifting involved.”