

## Traffic Jams Avoided, Production Rolling Thanks To Gorbels Work Station Jib

A major packaging company with locations throughout North America was having production congestion problems stemming from strained resources. The company is a provider of plastic packaging, primarily bags, for consumer products and was having trouble keeping up with production at its Midwest facility.

The primary back up was happening in the printing area, where rolls of printed plastic were coming out of the machine faster than the only available forklift could take them away.

Large rolls of sheet plastic are fed through a printer where the product's artwork is applied, and the plastic is fed onto a roll at the back end of the printer. Rolls average 30 inches in length, 24 inches in diameter and weight about 200 pounds. When the roll is complete, they are removed with a roll cart and placed on a pallet where they wait to move onto the next production stage.

"Originally that area was serviced by a small I-beam bridge crane," said the Manufacturing Coordinator. "That was so difficult to push and maneuver that we got rid of it, thinking that a fork lift would be able to service the area well enough, but that wasn't the case."

What they found was that as their production increased, demand for the forklift in other areas also increased. Productivity was halted as workers in the printing were waiting for a forklift to move a loaded pallet so that they could unload a machine.

"It was a resource issue for us, and we knew there was a better way. We were not using the whole area, but we were reluctant to use an overhead crane because of our negative experience with the old I-beam system we had."

Luckily, the company knew that better way was right around the corner. A nearby department within the same factory was having a lifting problem a few months prior and the solution then was a Gorbels work station crane.

"The workers loved that crane," said the Manufacturing Coordinator. "It wasn't long after we installed it that we started talking about the printing area. They were asking for the same crane as the other area."

In the printing area, the customer selected a 1000 pound capacity freestanding work station jib crane with 360 degree rotation, an 8 foot span and 10 foot height under boom along with an electric chain hoist. The Gorbels jib





allows them to use a larger area of the floor to load pallets, and is much easier to use than the old I-beam system.

“There’s so much versatility with the Gorbelt jib, it’s so much easier to work with. Workers can maneuver a load with almost no effort, we can load more pallets because we’re able to access more of the floor space again. It’s really helped to keep production moving.”

By using more of the available floor space, workers are now able to load four pallets rather than one, which allows more time for the single fork lift to service the entire facility.

“There were a few ways we could have gone to solve the problem. When the workers are asking for a solution by name, we knew we were onto something.”