



BS Handling expands GOH storage to 1.5m garments at Clipper Northampton

Leicester based storage and materials handling solution provider, BS Handling Systems, has recently completed 'Phase 2' of a major contract to fit out Clipper's distribution centre in Grange Park, Northampton. The project includes the expansion of goods on hangers (GOH) racking to store 1.5 million garments, six goods lifts, five new packing lane conveyors and 72 additional work benches.



Ability to adapt is key to success

The 300,000 sq ft facility, which has been operational for a year, is used by Clipper as a UK and European e-fulfilment hub for a major international retailer. The expansion was required to increase the stockholding of the distribution centre due to a significant growth in the company's online business.

Ant Everett, Engineering & Technology Director for Clipper Logistics commented, "We considered other suppliers for this contract but chose BS Handling as they are completely familiar with our requirements and our way of working."

“BS Handling understands the importance of hitting deadlines but remaining flexible.”

Ant Everett, Engineering & Technology Director, Clipper Logistics

"The operational situation here can change from day to day. So, although you have a framework and deadlines to hit which can't change, the way you achieve them has to be flexed to suit what is actually happening. BS Handling understands that. Additionally, our suppliers have to be reliable and we know we can depend on BS Handling."

Black Friday deadline

Work began on the expansion project the day after the retailer's summer sale finished and the deadline for the majority of the work to be completed was Black Friday/Cyber Monday.

The ground floor was cleared of garment racking to free up the space for carton storage for up to 2 million items and the extensive processing operation. The existing packing belt conveyors have been replaced by five 40m long conveyors. These are twice as wide as the original conveyors to give greater capacity.





Automation to increase productivity

The work stations, which are positioned alongside the conveyors, have been increased by nearly 70%, to a total of 180. There have also been modifications made to the original benches to store more packing materials to maximise productivity.

On the ground floor BS Handling Systems has installed six large goods lifts to serve all three tiers of the mezzanine. These lifts are a through-car design which are constantly in use to transport garments up and down from the mezzanines on mobile trollies.

“It was a challenging situation for BS Handling which required a lot of co-ordination and management, but it worked really well.”

Ant Everett, Engineering & Technology Director, Clipper Logistics

Stockholding size doubled

Consumables are stored at one end of the distribution centre on pallet racking; this has been doubled in size to accommodate the vast array of packing material and boxes required for such a busy e-commerce venture.

BS Handling Systems has also undertaken extensive Armco crash barrier works, both internally and externally, throughout Clipper's Northampton site.



Major installation works with no downtime

Ant Everett concluded, “The majority of BS Handling's work for us has focused on increasing the storage capacity of the building and most of this extra capacity is hanging storage.

The installation process required the dismantling of the existing GOH storage for 750,000 units on the ground floor. This was moved into the three tier mezzanine together with new hanging racking for a further 750,000 units.

“In spite of this disruption, the operation had to continue exactly as before – live working on the site 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. It was a challenging situation for BS Handling which required a lot of co-ordination and management, but it worked really well.”

BS Handling Systems

Established in 2009, BS Handling Systems is a provider of warehouse, storage and conveyor solutions across a broad cross-section of industries. Our first principle of business is customer satisfaction and peace of mind. Based in Leicester and drawing on 40 years' experience in the materials handling industry, we offer a unique competence in delivering bespoke systems and solutions.

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