

Case Study *government*

Post office distribution center uses mobile storage to store parts and tools for new automated mail sorting machinery

When a post office processing and distribution center made the decision to increase its automated sorting capability, it planned a new building with modern facilities to support the new machinery. With budget constraints limiting the size of the new building and the new machinery occupying a large percentage of it, the parts supply room was allocated less space than it had previously to house an even greater parts inventory.



This space problem was solved when a local Spacesaver representative worked with the

staff at the distribution center to design a compact programmable electric mobile system for its parts supply room. The mobile system utilized existing cabinets for parts and tool storage and specially

designed pegboards for hanging replacement belts.

The distribution center receives and processes mail from more than 100 post offices in the

After a sizable investment in new machinery and buildings, the maintenance support area was allocated a small footprint and needed to be highly efficient in its use of space.



A programmable electric mobile system consolidated the parts storeroom and made space for new automated equipment.

Northwestern Kentucky and Southwestern Indiana areas. To handle the increasing amount of mail, the distribution center has progressed like most distribution centers from manual, to mechanized,



to automated sorting. Mechanized sorting required 22 people to sort 35,000 pieces an hour; now with automation, two people can sort more than 40,000 pieces an hour. Although the automation has virtually eliminated the need for people in processing, it has greatly increased the reliance on people in a maintenance function.

Additionally, after a sizable investment in new machinery and buildings, the maintenance support area was allocated a small footprint and needed to be highly efficient in its use of space. The variety and number of parts kept on-site has increased as the amount of automated machinery increased.

The mobile system was also flexible in design and was configured to house replacement belts the way the maintenance crew required.

Because the mobile system allows the center to fit the parts in a compact space, it was able to design a space close to the processing floor, making it more organized and efficient. In addition, the maintenance technicians are able to find items quickly and respond to maintenance issues in a timely manner. This minimizes machine down time and helps to reduce the interruption of mail processing.

The mobile system was also flexible in design and was configured to house replacement



With increasing automation in the postal service, there is more reliance on an efficient maintenance operation.

belts the way the maintenance crew required. The automated sorting machines are designed with hundreds of different belts and guide mechanisms that sort and move the mail. It is important that there be several replacement belts of each type on hand in case of a belt breakage. In the previous building, the belts were kept on one expansive wall of Peg-Board and the

maintenance technicians had a difficult time locating and accessing replacement belts. Many times they had to use ladders to reach them. Now the belts are stored more ergonomically and are easy to view, locate and reach.

The mobile system was also designed to house existing cabinets. Additionally, the dual access design allows the crew to maximize efficiency and speed retrievals. •



Hundreds of different replacement belts are stored on the mobile system using specially designed Peg-Boards.



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