

PRODUCT REVIEW

MEZZANINE SAFETI-GATES, INC. Taking a Proactive Approach to Fall Protection

Many safety devices in warehouses and other materials handling facilities rely on employees to physically remove and replace parts to be effective. Mezzanine Safeti-Gates, Inc., believes that the best safety devices work automatically. If the gate requires less effort, then it will be used more often. To ensure consistency of use, workers should not be able to circumvent the system.

Mezzanine Safeti-Gates designed the first dual-acting safety gate device for the ledges of pallet-drop areas to ensure the safety of workers in these areas. The Roly® Safety Gate was invented when a major film manufacturer asked Mezzanine Safeti-Gates to assist them by reviewing their safety system. Upon inspection of the manufacturer's facility, Mezzanine found that latch chains were consistently left unlatched, removable gates were permanently removed and swinging gates were almost always swung open. Through its patented two gate system, the Roly Safety Gate solved the problem by creating a fully-enclosed, controlled-access area during the entire workflow operation, even when pallets were delivered, picked from or removed from the pallet drop area.



Roly Safety Gate

Employees cannot easily override or misuse the Roly Safety Gates because the counterbalanced gates work automatically to provide constant protection. There are no parts to remove or replace in order to make the system effective. Counterbalanced gates provide fingertip control, making operation virtually effortless. With the gate unit bolted securely to the mezzanine floor and one gate always separating employees from the ledge, the desired protection is always there.

To accommodate a variety of customer applications, Mezzanine Safeti-Gates has designed a number of safety gate models and added them to its product line. "Our philosophy is if one of our safety gates will not fit into a certain application, we will design one that will," said Aaron Conway, vice president. "As a result, we have designed a variety of safety gates that can fit into

virtually any materials handling application. Our dual-gate safety devices allow pallets to be removed from ninety-degree angles, while others can be integrated with conveyor lines. Some of our units require little overhead clearance, while others take up a minimal amount of depth on the platform. All of this is accomplished while maintaining the integrity of a two-gate system. No single-gate system comes close to offering the same degree of protection. In addition, all of our products have a standard design that meets the appropriate OSHA codes with optional designs that meet the appropriate BOCA codes."



The Tri-Side Safety Gate is ideal for platforms limited in depth.

Mezzanine Safeti-Gates designed the Tri-Side Safety Gate after talking with customers concerned with safety on platforms limited in depth and areas integrated with walkways and conveyor lines. The Tri-Side model was ideal for the Colorite Polymers facility in New Jersey where workers on platforms eighteen feet above the floor needed access to stairways and aisles that are adjacent to the platforms (see the Colorite Polymers case study for more information). The Tri-Side Safety Gate creates a controlled access area through a two-gate system that requires only twelve inches (12") in depth when the ledge gate is in the closed position. The model allows pallets to be removed from either ninety-degree angles or straight back into the storage area.

The company designed a Rack-Supported version of its Roly Safety Gate that is ideal to incorporate into the pallet-rack pick modules of distribution centers. The Rack-Supported Safety Gate, also referred to as the economy model, is able to save both space and cost by utilizing standard rack components as its framework. This two-gate system consists of formed channels that attach directly to rack uprights. As a result, the manufacturer is able to reduce cost by using existing components while allowing the end user to utilize virtually all of the existing pallet drop area. The Rack-Supported Safety Gates are currently



Rack-Supported Safety Gate

being used in many customer facilities, including Sears Canada distribution centers that have 400,000 square feet of mezzanines with 60 miles of shelving (see the Sears Canada case study for more information).

After talking with customers about applications with a minimum amount of height clearance, Mezzanine Safeti-Gates designed the Pivot Model Safety Gate. While maintaining the integrity of a two-gate system, this model requires less overhead space and uses fewer moving parts than the Roly model. The company's High Pallet Pivot Model is similar to the Pivot Model, but can accept extra-tall pallet loads of up to eighty inches (80"). The High Pallet Pivot gate was created after Cardinal Health asked Mezzanine Safeti-Gates to create a gate that could handle ranging heights of pallet loads (see the Cardinal Health case study for more information). The pivot models can be manufactured out of painted steel, aluminum or stainless steel. The ability to construct the gates out of these materials and their few moving



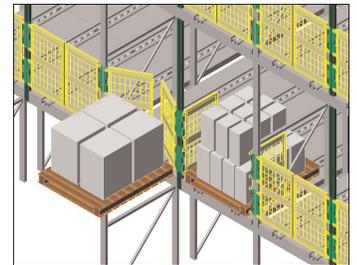
The High Pallet Pivot Gate can handle pallet loads of up to 80 inches.

parts makes them ideal for companies in industries operating in hostile environments and extreme climates, including chemical-producing companies, paint manufacturers and food packaging facilities.

All of the safety gates in Mezzanine Safeti-Gates' product line can be power operated either at the time of manufacturing or retrofitted after installation. Two ergonomically positioned three push-button stations, usually located on the unit and on the

mezzanine floor, can be used to electrically open, close or stop the motion of the gates. A radio frequency remote can also be integrated for remote operation from a fork truck or order picker. "Ideally, we want to see our gates manually operated by the end users," said Aaron Conway. "Power operation takes some of the control away from the primary person that we are trying to protect, which is the person up on the mezzanine working the pallet drop area. However, for some applications, such as one in Grocery Supply Company's Texas facility, power operation of the gates increases overall production due to the ease of use by fork lift operators (see the Grocery Supply Company case study for more information)."

In response to customer inquiries, Mezzanine Safeti-Gates designed the Pallet Flow Pick Module Swing Gate to protect workers and materials in high bay rack picking bays that are integrated with flow rails. The gates open



The Pallet Flow Pick Module Swing Gate provides protection in high bay rack picking areas

automatically when the pallet is pushed into position on the pallet flow rails and close automatically when the pallet flows into the picking position of the system. These gates fit into all types of manufacturers' rack systems and can be designed for new systems. The rugged construction of the gates ensures low maintenance.

Mezzanine Safeti-Gates will continue to provide its customers with innovative safety devices that work automatically, are easy to use and provide constant protection.

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