

Hy-Tek Material Handling, Inc.

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Seven is Wild for Hy-Tek

Case Study



Western Pacific contributed racking to the simultaneous setup of seven distribution centers across the country.

In 2006, a large pet supplies retail chain decided to bring product into its warehouses that traditionally had gone straight to stores. Its warehouses, however, were not equipped to handle these additional products. Keogh Consulting was brought in to analyze the situation. "The bottom line is, these facilities did not have the capacity to handle these additional products," Principal Tom Guschke says. "Part of the problem was that the facilities were designed primarily for fast-moving items, and the new items were of a variety of shapes, sizes and demand levels."

Guschke performed a capacity and racking analysis to determine how to best handle the 300 or so additional products that would come into the distribution center. After a competitive bidding process, distributor **Hy-Tek Material Handling** (Columbus, OH) was selected to assist with the implementation.

Seven distribution centers would be affected, and the time frame to achieve the changeover was very short. "It was on a very fast track because the decision had already been made to bring these products in," says Guschke, who did the initial designs. Hy-Tek Sales Representative Donnie Johnson worked to get the plans certified in each of the seven municipalities where the DCs would be implemented. "Each city is different, so that took some patience," Johnson says.

The size of each installation varied, but each included carton flow from **Western Pacific Storage Systems**, pallet rack from **Kingway**, **Interroll** pallet flow, wire decking from **Nelson Steel** and safety netting by **InCord**.

Hy-Tek lined up installation crews for each facility, and installation was performed in conjunction with the customer operations. "We didn't have one facility shut down at any time," Johnson says. "We either worked while they worked or shut down an aisle at a time during the night shift so that we didn't interfere with the workflow." It was a whirlwind few weeks, but Hy-Tek got the job done.