



Gorbels® Work Station Crane Increases Productivity for Glass Mirror Manufacturer

Industry:
Manufacturing

Product:
Glass Mirrors

The Problem:
injuries and product damage

The Solution:
A Gorbels® Ceiling Mounted Work Station Crane



Improved Worker Safety / Increased Productivity / Decreased Product Damage

A glass mirror manufacturer makes large mirrors for the furniture industry. In the packaging process of these mirrors, the large, heavy (up to 300 lbs.) sheets of glass must be lifted off a conveyor, tilted 90 degrees, and then placed in a wooden shipping crate. To keep the fabrication process running efficiently, one mirror must be lifted and placed in the crate every 60 seconds.

Before the Gorbels® system was installed with the vacuum lifter, it took four people to lift, tilt, and position these mirrors in the crates. Doing this activity by hand was a problem for many reasons:

1. People were getting hurt while trying to position the mirrors
2. Female employees had a difficult time performing this task
3. Mirrors were damaged and dropped during the process
4. Employees were getting injured by the broken glass when mirrors were dropped

To resolve the problems, the customer considered the following two options: An automated handling system with a lifter or a manually operated Gorbels® Work Station Bridge Crane with a vacuum lifter (by others)

The automated system was very expensive to purchase and maintain. The Gorbels® Work Station Crane was purchased for the following reasons:

- Improved Safety: manual lifting eliminated
- Ease of Movement and Positioning: every employee could now perform the task
- Productivity improvements: the operation could now be performed by two people
- Cost: The Gorbels® system was 3X less than the automated system