



Less Downtime, More Precise Handling with Gorbel Work Station Crane

Industry:

Motor home Manufacturing

The Problem:

Manual handling; long production time due to waiting for forklifts

The Solution:

Free Standing Work Station Bridge Crane



Gorbel® Helps With Process Improvement Initiatives

Free Standing Work Station Bridge Cranes; 1,000 lb. capacity with an electric chain hoist. With a reputation for unsurpassed quality and superior customer service, Tiffin Motorhomes has flourished in Red Bay, Alabama, and the surrounding area for more than four decades. A family-owned business, Tiffin stresses the value of listening to those who craft the product in order to constantly improve the final output and processes. The result is a nimble, safety-conscious workforce that produces some of the most luxurious motor homes in the world.

As part of its process improvement initiatives, Tiffin turned to Gorbel to completely overhaul how materials were handled at various stages of the production process. The results were immediate - with less downtime, more precise handling, and a more consistent flow in the areas of concentration.

Tiffin changed work processes from handling the electric slide out components or “diving boards” with forklifts and manually placing them into position. Now, the only manual work required is to guide the boards into place. The work station crane and hoist handle the bulk of lifting and positioning. Workers have found the system to be very easy to use, and it places no strain on workers. The use of the work station crane has also allowed workers to remain extremely productive and eliminated delays in the overall production process. In the past, workers had to wait up to 45 minutes for a forklift, but now there is no waiting so production continues throughout the day. At times, forklifts may even sit idle for a short time.

Tiffin has used the success from the diving board line to initiate additional material handling changes in other parts of the manufacturing process in order to keep production at top levels while ensuring that workers lift and move components in a consistent, user-friendly manner.