

## 2-MINUTE OVERVIEW



# Vehicle Restraints to Prevent Loading Dock Mishap a Priority

### Features/Benefits Provided:

- **Restraint provides employee, equipment and cargo safety at the loading dock**
- **Restraint accommodates wide range of rear impact guards, including damaged and closed in guards**
- **Restraint interlocked with the dock - comes complete with highly visible lights and communication system signaling dock attendant of safe operating conditions**
- **Simplicity of design and less moving parts reduces maintenance and operating costs**

Health and Safety Committee drives change after near fatal mishap at the loading dock. Slippery conditions during winter months last year caused a trailer to separate from the dock portal during typical forklift loading. This situation prompted the facilities project engineer to investigate and implement safety measures at the loading dock.

A pioneer manufacturer in the fields of aerospace, rail transportation, recreational products and financial services installed 48 hydraulic vehicle restraints at one of their JIT facilities. The restraints service a fleet of trailers averaging 2,000 operational cycles per dock, per year.

The hydraulic restraint system applies 35,000 lbs of pressure to keep the trailers rear impact guard securely stationed to the loading dock. The unique non-impact gate system cycles upward confining the trailers rear impact guard within the restraining area – servicing trucks with guards from 12” to 29” above ground and 12” beyond the face of the dock. The restraint also accommodates bent and closed in rear impact guards. This versatility in restraining conditions was one of the leading factors that prompted the Health and Safety Committee to

recommend this restraint system at their facility. Minimal maintenance was the deciding factor from the Maintenance department. With only three moving parts – two springs and one hydraulic cylinder, regular adjustments and lubrication are not necessary and lock-up problems are a non-issue with this design.

*Industry-leading manufacturer of recreational products and vehicles demanded safe and reliable vehicle restraints to be installed at their facility. Company issued survey to operations, maintenance and health and safety personnel to determine best solution.*

Operational since July 2002, the hydraulic restraint system is completely interlocked to the entire dock portal, including the dock leveler, overhead door, dock seals and lights communication systems. The entire system provides the dock attendant with complete control over the safety and productivity of the loading dock area.

Fifty-two more units are already on order for the two facilities.

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