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Application Profile

Distribution Center Eliminates Lost and Damaged Packages with Roller Conveyor Transfer Plates

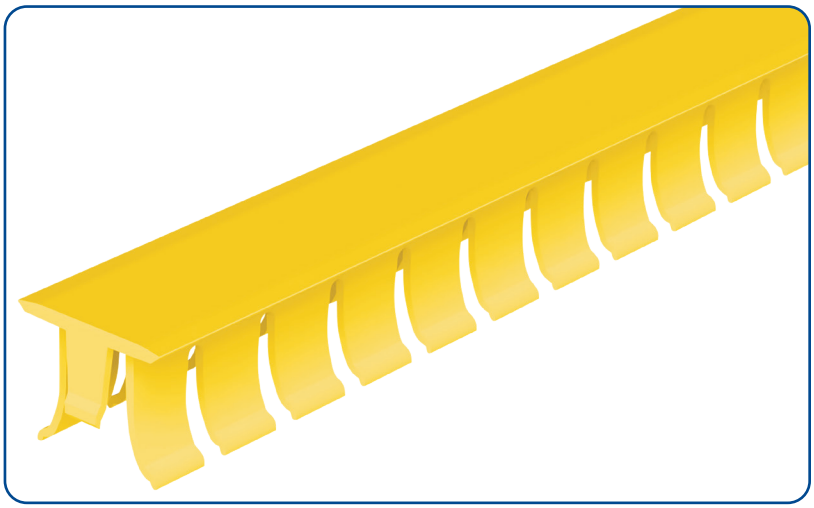
Industry
Logistics

Application
Roller conveyor transporting variety of polybags, envelopes, and boxes

Product
Roller Conveyor Transfer Plates

Objective
- Reduce package loss
- Improve worker safety

Conveyor Detail
48" Wide, 150-foot long roller conveyor with sorters



Problem:
For a major distribution center, retrieving packages that fell between the rollers of their conveyors was a routine task. A pan was placed under the rollers so product didn't fall to the floor, and after every shift the conveyor would be stopped to remove the packages. Inevitably, they found other items in the pan that had slipped from workers hands as well, including box cutters. At the end of the sort, the retrieved packages were diverted to the next sort, causing delivery delays. This was thought of as simply a cost of doing business and just added to the checklist for completion at the end of each shift.

Solution:
While performing a conveyor assessment, the local Flexco Territory Manager happened to be present in between shifts and saw this process. He suggested Roller Conveyor Transfer Plates (RCTP) to keep product from falling in between the rollers. The plates float between rollers to keep operator hands, product, and debris from getting caught or falling through. After testing them on a small section of their roller conveyors, the operations managers decided to try them on a critical conveyor.

Result:
The low-friction material of the RCTPs provide smooth, continuous movement of packages across the rollers to maintain product flow and keep items from falling below the conveyors. An added benefit of the RCTP was that lighter packages that weighed very little often had to be pushed along the conveyor by operators, but the addition of the RCTP keeps them moving smoothly across the plates and keeps workers hands away from the conveyor where they could get caught, pinched, or injured on drive bands, belts, or chains. The increase in productivity and throughput, combined with the decrease in conveyor downtime between shifts, was enough to convince this distribution center to install them on several more conveyors.

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