



Raising the Bar at Howard Tenens



Logistics operation Howard Tenens has been able to pass on substantial cost savings to a major client in the offshore drilling sector by replacing counterbalance trucks with a combination of a 4t CombiLift and cantilever racking at its facility in Gloucestershire.

The new system has reduced the amount of space needed to store steel bars by more than a half - from 70,000 ft² to just 30,000 ft², reducing costs, speeding up handling and storage procedures and enhancing health and safety.

The bulk storage system previously used was space consuming, and the limited manoeuvrability of the old counterbalance trucks made it difficult to get lengths of up to 10m through the warehouse doors.

After seeing a CombiLift at another of the group's sites General Manager Mike Jones realised that it would easily cope with the loads in question and also need much less room to manoeuvre.

The LPG powered CombiLift is fitted with a number of features for safer

and easier handling of the long cylindrical products: the tapered platform provides extra stability when bars are offloaded and transferred to the racking and a 7m removable spreader bar prevents flexing of the longest lengths.

Rubber buffers fitted to the front face of the forks also protect the product from "metal on metal" damage when the bars roll back onto the tilted forks.

Two types of racking have been installed to accommodate different lengths of stock, and the CombiLift's 6.8m mast height enables full exploitation of vertical space.

Guide rails ensure quick and easy

travel in the aisles and keep the product safe.

"Payback on the investment will be quickly achieved as a result of cost savings made from the reduced space," says Mike, and the CombiLift has given us greater flexibility, so this upgraded facility has been a resounding success for all concerned."

