

Getting a Clear View @ B&D Doors & Openers!

During the last Improvement Cycle at B&D Clontarf the “Hit and Miss” Cross-functional Team were developing a plan to keep operators and mobile equipment at least 3m apart.

Figure 1: The “Hit and Miss” Team



L to R: Grant Viney, Jeff Anderson, Mark Steponovsky, Rohan Tink (Dulux CI Manager), Kevin Glibert (Team Leader), Darlene Moore and Peter Thorpe

During one of the team’s improvement activities the method of transporting a completed door using a forklift which has been fitted with a side loading conveyor, from the Panel Line to the Storage Racks was observed.

What struck the team was the very poor visibility the operator had to align the tip of the conveyor with the door in the rack. It was very much a case of trial and error. If the operator got it wrong there was a strong possibility of the door being damaged and any damage would not be noticed until the door had been delivered to the customer.

Figure 2: Forklift operators view of the racking



During the debrief of the observation the team were discussing the difficulty the operator had in aligning the conveyor when a couple of team members started discussing the problem they had reversing their camping vans / trailers. One of the team members commented that he had fitted a reversing camera to the back of his van and that had made an enormous difference. Pity we could not fit a camera to the conveyor..... or could we?

A quick bit of investigation on the net found a local car parts company that were selling a wifi camera and display unit for under \$150. One of the units was purchased and after a risk assessment, it was temporarily installed onto the forklift.

Figure 3: The Camera fitted onto end of conveyor and the Display Unit cable tied into position



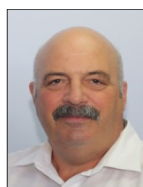
The operators’ verdict:

“Brilliant! I can actually see what’s going on!”

Moving forward the team is now in discussion with a supplier to install a permanent system, to help make this idea a new standard for all site forklifts.

We congratulate the team on this very good idea that could have many applications throughout industry. The result will not only reduce damaged doors but also increase safety of forklifts on site.

For further information please contact:



Bill Hopton

Managing Navigator

Phone: 0418 663 563

Head Office: +61 2 4226 6184

Website: www.ctpm.org.au