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CASE STUDY

Rack Supported Freezer

Reno Saves McLane Foodservice $2M In Project Costs vs. New Construction

It's a familiar battle, renovate vs build from scratch. Major considerations such as time requirements, business disruption and project cost weigh heavily in the decision-making process. In this case, those advantages fell squarely into the renovation column, but there is more... See how E-Distribution not only saved McLane Foodservice $2 million dollars in construction costs, but also kept things moving at the facility during the renovation.

Project Specs

- Replicated the existing layout
- 15,000 sq. ft. refrigerated RSB
- Selective and 2-deep pallet rack
- **2 months to complete (vs 1 year for new construction)**

The Challenge

McLane Foodservice is a leading supplier to chain restaurants throughout the U.S. A few years ago, they added to their DC network by acquiring an existing rack supported building (RSB) in Lakeland, FL. The building was originally built in 1966 as a freezer storage facility and the years of use and abuse had taken their toll on the structure. Ultimately the overall system integrity and capacity rating were called into question. The options were to renovate or tear down and rebuild.

Considerations

- New construction has different permitting and approval processes than renovation. It requires expensive permits and long lead times which would cost McLane about a year of downtime for the facility.
- Reconstructing a rack supported building WHILE keeping it operational would be difficult… for some teams anyway.

E-Distribution got the call. E-Distribution is a full-service materials handling systems integrator and they more than proved it on this project. The team designed the new systems and with the help of Frazier engineers who updated the newly designed racking capacities and stamped them for to meet state guidelines, the E-Distribution team then project managed and installed the new rack supported building. Project Manager, Dave MacDonald is a veteran material handling systems expert with decades of extensive AS/RS and RSB experience and the in-house installation team is comprised of seasoned, skilled systems installers. The team was confident they could handle this project, keep the warehouse open and save McLane a considerable amount of money in the process. ***They delivered.***

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Implementation

The E-Distribution team tore out the old structural steel racking and replaced it with new structural steel pallet racking systems. They worked aisle by aisle – unloading the rack, dismantling the row, re-racking and even reloading with inventory. As they finished each aisle they moved on to the next.

Temporary building columns and support steel were installed to support the roof during the process.

ALL the steel was replaced in the building and full pallet storage was provided with a combination of selective and 2-deep structural steel pallet rack systems.

Results

- Renovation saved McLane $2 million in construction costs not to mention downtime and order processing slowdowns.
- Faster permitting helped E-Distribution meet the aggressive 2-month time frame.
- Warehouse is now in compliance and storage capacity ratings are updated.
- Safer, more-efficient working environment and productivity savings.

Decades of successful project completions and collaborations led to choosing E-Distribution for this project… knowing they would deliver the results on this challenging renovation. The E-Distribution team is experienced, knowledgeable and known for creative solutions that get positive ROI results.



Temporary columns support ceiling while rack is dismantled & replaced row by row.



Safety First: Clearly marked temporary columns.



Careful planning optimizes facility cube space.

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