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CASE STUDY

PFG's Little Rock DC Gets a Complete Storage Facelift with No Downtime and $150k in Savings

Performance Food Group (PFG) is one of the leading food service distributors in the US, delivering food and food related products to over 130,000 independent and national chain restaurants, schools and institutions. Their growing and extremely busy Little Rock, AR facility faced major capacity and material handling challenges with no immediate plans for expansion.



This like-new Frazier push-back system featuring a cant-leg design creates extra floor space for forklift outriggers to access pallets and turn without damaging the column

PFG Little Rock Challenges:

1. **Extensive Rack Damage** – The distribution center had close to 3,000 pallet positions of damaged 2-deep, roll-formed Interlake drive-in rack. Confined in a small cooler with narrow aisles, the lower frame sections were severely bashed and bent due to constant forklift abuse. Despite several rack repair efforts, PFG was concerned that the system posed a safety hazard to their employees. They needed a stronger, abuse-resistant alternative.

2. **Needed Pick Faces for Cooler SKU's** - PFG faced a common foodservice challenge; how to effectively accommodate increasing SKU requirements. This was definitely the case with their cooler products category, where they needed to find several additional floor level pick faces within their existing footprint.

Before



Extensive damage and repair to existing roll-formed drive-in posed safety and productivity concerns at PFG

PFG turned to long term systems partner, E-Distribution, for help. E-Distribution had completed over 30 successful storage system projects for PFG including new and used rack system design, installation, teardown and remodel projects.

PFG

Project Highlights

- 3,000 pallet position teardown and remodel
- Replaced damaged 2-deep drive-in with structural 2-deep push-back
- $150,000 in equipment cost savings using like-new racking
- No disruption of operations during install

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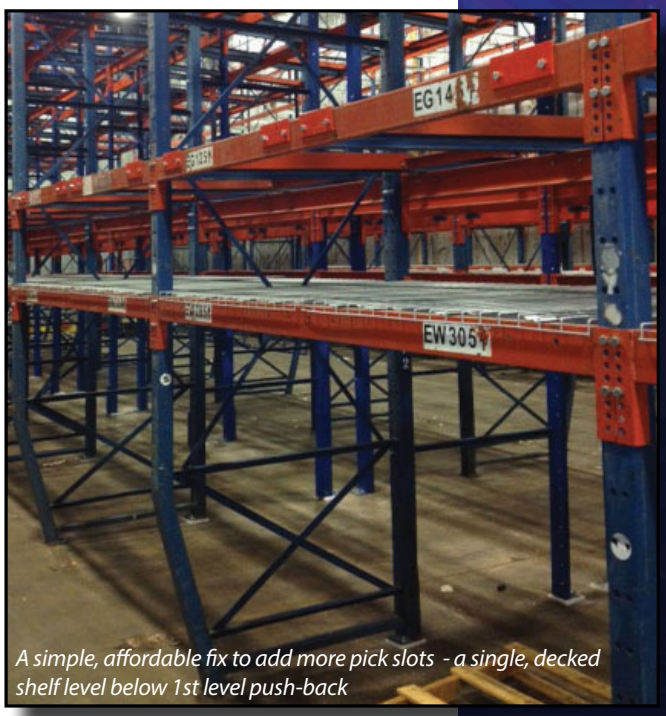
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The E-Distribution Solution Reaps Major Equipment Savings

E-Distribution proposed a used, or like-new, Frazier 2-deep push-back system to replace the existing roll-formed drive-in. Knowing that budget and durability were top priorities, used structural push-back offered the ideal alternative; structural steel is far more abuse-resistant than roll-formed and capable of withstanding the extensive forklift abuse of a busy foodservice facility. Push-back also offers added productivity by delivering pallets directly to the aisle face vs. drive-in which requires the forklift to drive into the system to retrieve the 2nd pallet.

A creative and cost-effective solution was developed by PFG and the E-Distribution team to add lower level pick faces. The floor level was already used for case-pick selection with reserve pallet storage above. E-Distribution added shelf beams and wire decking to create an extra single deep shelf level directly above the floor pick area for an addition 6-8 pick faces per bay.

The integration of like-new components saved PFG more than $150,000 versus a similar new structural push-back system.



A simple, affordable fix to add more pick slots - a single, decked shelf level below 1st level push-back

A Seamless 8-Week Implementation with No Downtime

It was critical that PFG's distribution operations stay on track during implementation. Teardown and installation were completed one section at a time using an empty seasonal cooler area for transitional storage and order selection. Product was moved to transitional storage, rack dismantled and removed, floor repaired and push-back installed, all without disrupting day to day operations. New hardware was provided throughout the system.

PFG Little Rock is a great example of E-Distribution's creative, customer driven approach to system design. This brand neutral, cost-saving solution allowed PFG to stay in their existing space with no interruption of operations during implementation.

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