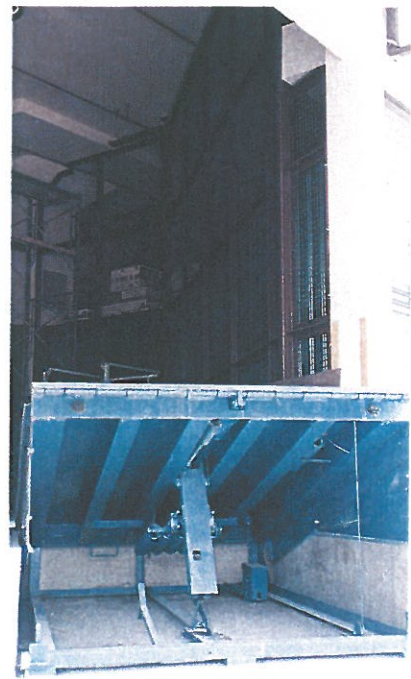


MHE-Demag sets record with PSA contract



MHE-Demag in Singapore supplied 309 dock levellers of Blue Giant design to the Port of Singapore Authority's Keppel Distripark which opened last August — this was a record number for a dock leveller contract.



It may not make it to the *Guinness Book of Records*, but the 309 mechanical dock levellers which MHE-Demag (S) Pte Ltd supplied to the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA) is the biggest on record. The dock levellers were installed at Keppel Distripark (KD).

KD is PSA's most modern distripark built on a 23ha site within the Free Trade Zone. Opened in August 1994, it comprises four blocks of two-storey container freight stations and a five-storey office complex. Modules of 910 to 5000 sq metres are occupied by some 40 shipping lines, consolidators and warehouse operators. Each unit has its own docking bays to allow cargo to be loaded or discharged from vehicles onto storage platforms. As the vehicles are of varying heights, dock levellers had to be installed to bridge the incline between the raised warehouse floor and vehicles.

The dock levellers ordered by the PSA were of the Blue Giant design, model A6810. Each unit measures 2728 mm in length and 1829 mm width, with a frame height of 483 mm and a lip extension of 406 mm. It can take loads of up to 12,500 kg. Under the terms of the contract, MHE-Demag had to install these dock levellers in a preformed concrete pit. This is to ensure that when they are in a stored position the platform is level with the warehouse floor to allow for cross-traffic movements.

The contract was awarded to MHE-Demag because of the Blue Giant design, its organisational set-up and after sales services.

Blue Giant, for which MHE-Demag is the Singapore licensee, is a well-established product. Among its key assets are:

- A patented friction type hold-down system which minimises cross traffic bounce and provides instant hold at any point in the operating cycle.

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- The use of wide flange structural I-beams to reinforce the deck plate, which gives the deck design the structural integrity to withstand the dynamic forces that can cause dishing of the deck surface.
- A full width piano hinge that provides uninterrupted support of the hinge pin

for a longer hinge life.

- Tilt pockets that allow 102mm of maintained deck tilt for canted truck situations.

The dock levellers were manufactured at Blue Giant's plant in Brampton, Canada, to facilitate control. They were then shipped in 40-ft containers to Singapore for installation by MHE-Demag. To ensure smooth work flow, MHE-Demag had to work closely with PSA's project engineer and KD's main contractor Low Keng Huat, from the time the contract was awarded to the time they were installed. Work was completed in February 1994.

MHE-Demag, a joint venture between Mannesmann-Demag and Jebsen and Jessen, is no stranger to the PSA. Over the past two years it has also installed dock levellers of the same model at the Tanjong Pagar Freight Station and the Sembawang Wharves.

With the completion of this prestigious project, MHE-Demag received another order for 54 units from PSA for the F1/F2 freight stations and from other new warehouse developments.

Besides mechanical dock levellers, MHE-Demag also supplies and installs Blue Giant's hydraulic dock leveller.

MHE-Demag says that with the increasing shift towards automation, the demand for a dock leveller which is well known for its reliability and efficiency is increasing.