



*Stryker Communications,
Flower Mound, TX*

Dock Equipment Helps Company Put People First



Stryker Communications, a global leader in medical technology, depends upon the people we hire and it doesn't matter if the position is the director of engineering or the workers in production. When they planned for a new manufacturing facility adjacent to their current building in Flower Mound, TX the management team thought carefully how to outfit their loading dock. Its workers were top of mind and the reason why Stryker chose to go with a combination of the LoadHog® modular dock bridge and SERCO® dock equipment.

For the success of their business, Stryker looks for people who exercise initiative at all levels so that problems are prevented before the products work their way through their system and have to be rejected in quality assurance. Part of ensuring employee retention is providing a comfortable and safe working environment.

The Flower Mound facility designs and manufactures operating room equipment for patients to receive the best in health care by helping medical staff maintain a safe and efficient environment. Stryker also offers telemedicine systems that provide vital medical data, keep surgeons connected to other patients in recovery and provide access to medical information and/or resources around the world throughout the course of surgery.

Surgeons and their team often have to move around and work from a variety of angles. Stryker offers a positioning arm that can hold their equipment and be manipulated to give those who need it an optimal view from virtually any angle.

These arms weigh 500 lbs. each and require a good deal of customization. While Stryker traditionally outsourced production they recently decided to manufacture them in-house and thus the need for this new facility.

In considering the new plant, among the questions they asked themselves was how to get the best safety and loading dock equipment to carefully handle these precise yet heavy pieces of equipment. That's why the LoadHog was a strong fit for them.

LoadHogs Ensure Good Health at Health Care Equipment Company

- **SAFER.** *The LoadHog is a reliable bridge from the Stryker dock to the truck trailer.*
- **ERGONOMIC.** *Takes less than 38 lbs effort to lift and store the dock.*
- **COMPACT** *profile takes up little space when LoadHog stores upright. Protects dock doors against forklift damage.*
- **FLEXIBLE.** *When Styker is ready for new quarters simply remove the four anchor bolts, take the LoadHogs to the new site and bolt them place. No need to dig a pit in the dock*

Stryker Communications

LoadHog is a modular dock bridge that spans the gap between the warehouse dock and the trailer, offering similar capability of mechanical dock levelers, but without the need for a concrete pit.

Stryker management worked with Chris Alkier with Southern Dock Products, their local dock equipment supplier, to outfit the five dock doorways at the new plant.

According to Alkier, "for this project, Stryker wanted a clean dock image to make a good impression for customers and they wanted to avoid the use of dock plates."

"That is why we recommended the LoadHog dock bridge as we knew that within a few years Stryker would be moving to a new location."

Sea Vans drop off parts at their dock. Typically once a van docks it takes several hours to unload. Stryker has found other loading dock equipment difficult to use because of the way their loads arrive. The shipping containers are fully loaded with surgical tables. Each unit weighs 600 to 800 lbs and are double-stacked. The dock crew cannot safely use a forklift on a standard dock plate to get the first table off because it is right at the edge of the trailer.

LoadHog allows the user to break the lip at a 90° angle and lower it between the trailer bed and dock wall, referred

to as an "end-load". The forklift is in a better position to get that first load off. Then without moving the truck out the user can raise the LoadHog platform, flip the lip back up and bring the LoadHog back down into standard loading position very easily.

Its unique activation system is designed with a more ergonomic approach than dock plates, mechanical levelers and Edge-of-Dock's, which require bending and/or pulling of chains to activate. Once the trailer is in position against the dock bumpers, the dockworker simply steps on the release pedal and gently pushes forward on the deck and it slowly, softly lowers into place.

Only 38 pounds of force lifts and stores the Loadhog. The operating handle pivots up to meet the dockworker, requiring no bending and making it easy to raise the deck.

Mechanical pit-style levelers can also be difficult to walk down into position if they are not constantly maintained. LoadHog's unique variable bias design does not require an operator to walk it down into position. LoadHog is also much easier to position for end-load operations. Plus the LoadHog doesn't need the maintenance devoted to a mechanical dock leveler.

Stryker will be moving into a new facility in 2010 and company management appreciates LoadHog's modular design. When they are ready to move, the four anchor bolts holding each LoadHog can be removed and the units transported to the new site. Stryker does not have the cost of cutting a pit into the concrete floor needed for a mechanical leveler.



The 30,000 sq ft facility has two receiving doors and three shipping doors along a single wall and each door is equipped with a LoadHog. This is a lean operation and management is using 5s to make all steps in the process more efficient.

Stryker needs the three outgoing freight doors to ship most of their orders at certain times of the day. These orders will be staged on the dock and each order can contain as many as 160 of these equipment systems, yet only 40 units can fit in one 53 ft trailer.

Space gets tight when product is being shipped out. In the planning process Recognizing the problems of using dock plates, Stryker management felt that despite the low purchase cost they knew that the 6' x 6' plates would get in the way as product is being staged on the dock.

The LoadHog was the perfect solution because it stores vertically and has a very low profile, providing ample room for staged product.

All of this attention on the dock is part of Stryker's focus on employee morale. Management here believes it is a big factor in productivity and the company's success.

It is only fitting that a company, which makes its living keeping people healthy, would do the same in setting up its docks.

