



THE TRACK TO BETTER PICKING

CARTON FLOW AT 10 BELOW

Grocery Distribution Leader Gets “Smart & Final” Answer for Maximizing Use of Cold Storage Freezer Space

When Smart & Final’s corporate decided it was time to re-vamp their existing Port Stockton Foods distribution warehouse in North Carolina, Smart & Final management turned to UNEX for order picking solutions.

With Port Stockton’s approximately 2800 items stocked in the freezer area and a total SKU count of about 12,000, space was at a premium. According to Bob Glinka, Smart & Final’s Manager/Industrial Engineer, something had to be done and quickly. “We had far more items than pick slots. Our only alternative was to go vertical. Instead of picking off pallets and putting the pallets in the air, we decided to put case flow in the air and make them fixed locations.”

“We went floor to ceiling with the intention of increasing pick facings,” Glinka said. “Now we just receive the product, put it on an orderpicker and stock just like would a hand-stocked shelf. It’s allowed us to get more facings into the freezer without doing a major overhaul.”

Bob Glinka received input from the order pickers and fork lift operators throughout the process. Both management and the workers agreed that Span-Track carton flow by UNEX was the optimal solution providing several benefits to their order picking operation.



In cold storage applications Span-Track’s full width rollers create superior Carton Flow — beam-to-beam and floor-to-ceiling.

“The workers loved Span-Track because the product was always at the pick face. We do a lot of re-slotting. With Span-Track one person can change out a bay in 15 to 20 minutes ... it’s flexible ... user friendly ... very easily interchangeable.”
Bob Glinka Manager/Industrial Engineer



Span-Track Benefits in Cold Storage

- ⇒ Increased pick facings alleviated rotating slots nightmare
- ⇒ Maximized space utilization - condensed slots reduced travel time between picks
- ⇒ Provided FIFO rotation of inventory
- ⇒ Span-Track carton flow is maintenance free—more durable than plastic wheel
- ⇒ Span-Track withstands the rigors of the Grocery/Freezer environment