



Moss Bros

Barking, Essex

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- MAJOR RELOCATION PROJECT
- ON TIME - ON BUDGET
- BEST IN CLASS EQUIPMENT
- FUTURE PROOF



Key Highlights

The SDI Group Solution for Moss Bros

Moss Bros

MAJOR RELOCATION PROJECT: SDI took responsibility for every aspect of the relocation, preparation and configuration of the warehouse.

ON TIME - ON BUDGET: The solution was delivered on time, on budget and without any operational disruption for the client.

BEST IN CLASS EQUIPMENT: In addition to the conveyor and hanging garment storage areas, SDI supplied and installed 336 long-span shelving bays for the flat pack areas, racking for up to 255 pallets, a sprinkler system, lighting and heating.

FUTURE PROOF: The conveyor systems can be upgraded to support automation and sortation in the future if the business requirement arises.



THE CHALLENGE

Moss Bros' national distribution centre had been in Stratford, East London for many years but London's successful bid for the 2012 Olympics meant that the site was required for development, so a new facility in Barking was chosen.

The relocation represented an opportunity to install new equipment to support the company's ongoing operations. Following a competitive tender Moss Bros asked SDI to manage the materials handling aspects of the project. This involved the design and installation of conveyor systems and associated equipment to meet Moss Bros' requirement to handle and store over 400,000 hire and retail garments destined for customers throughout the UK.

"Our selection was based on the conviction from SDI that they could manage the project properly and deliver on time and budget. We were looking to work with a partner where we were comfortable with the individuals and who could offer the right design at the right price."

Gordon Watts,

Head of Logistics at Moss Bros.

THE SOLUTION

SDI took responsibility for every aspect of the relocation, preparation and configuration of the warehouse. In addition to the conveyor and hanging garment storage areas, SDI supplied and installed 336 long-span shelving bays for the flat pack areas, racking for up to 255 pallets, a sprinkler system, lighting and heating. It worked closely with the

warehouse team at Moss Bros to ensure everything was exactly as required.

The relocation was completed over two weekends in the summer of 2006. The first weekend saw the transfer of retail stock and the second the hire items. In total 400,000 units were moved from the old building into the new one. The solution was delivered on time, on budget and without any operational disruption.

Although the new warehouse will meet the requirements for Moss Bros for the foreseeable future the company has recognised that the conveyor systems in place could be upgraded to support automation and sortation in the future if the business requirement arises.



THE SYSTEM

Moss Bros' old site had utilised conveyors handling garments between four floors but the new warehouse had lower ceilings. Whilst this meant that operations would need to be consolidated on just two floors - it also offered the prospect of making everything simpler and more efficient. The overall design involved the installation of a new 55,000 sq ft mezzanine in the 96,000 sq ft shell to create a total of 152,000 sq ft of warehouse space with the remaining space occupied by administrative offices.

One key consideration was that Moss Bros has separate operations for its retail and hire business in the warehouse. As a result the mezzanine is used solely for storing hanging garments with items split broadly 50/50 between the two operations. In addition there are a number of hire and retail storage zones dedicated to specific types of garment which can accommodate a total 232,000

garments on two or three levels of hanging rails.

The conveyor system connects all the principal hanging storage zones on the mezzanine with goods inwards, buffer storage and despatch areas on the ground floor. Everything is transferred by the conveyor which has two circuits running in parallel, one for hire items and the other retail products. This solution allows Moss Bros to manage both operations using a simple, integrated system with a degree of in-built flexibility.

Hanging retail products arriving at the warehouse are placed on to the conveyor and transferred to the mezzanine for storage in one of the zones. Hire items arriving back at the warehouse are checked in the "laundry" area before being transferred to similar storage areas by conveyor. Items that require any cleaning or mending are sent to

external contractors for the work to be completed. Staff handle garments in the storage areas by sliding them on their hangers along the rails to the end nearest the conveyor. From there they are transferred to the appropriate conveyor track by hand.

The ground floor incorporates a storage area at the rear half for flat pack items including boxed garments such as shirts and accessories including ties, cufflinks and braces. The front part of the ground floor is used for order assembly, despatch and receipts. Two doors are dedicated to hanging garments, one for despatch and one for receipt, with extendable booms that reach in to the vehicles to make loading much easier.

Another two doors are reserved for the receipt of flat pack items and the final three for flat pack despatch. There is a goods inwards receiving buffer which

cont.



“SDI delivered a most effective solution to our requirement. This was fairly straightforward technically but the real challenge was to design and install the conveyors and other equipment on time and within budget so that we could move from the old site to the new one on schedule and without any disruptions to the business.”

Gordon Watts, Head of Logistics at Moss Bros.



ABOUT MOSS BROS

can hold up to 18,000 garments with a similar facility on the mezzanine for a further 17,000 items.

All items are given a unique and readily identifiable label on arrival at the warehouse. This makes it easier for staff to distinguish between retail and hire products. Picking is managed using conventional printed lists with items placed on the inner or outer track depending on whether they are hire or retail items. The conveyor then transfers items to the ground floor despatch and order assembly areas dedicated to each operation. There is capacity in these areas to hold up to 25,000 hanging garments awaiting loading and despatch.

The leading retailer of branded suits on the high street, Moss Bros has over 150 stores located throughout the UK. Moss Bros Group plc owns and operates the UK franchise for Hugo Boss and Canali. The company is divided into two trading units, the Mainstream Division with 116 stores which includes Moss, Moss Bros Hire, Moss Bros, Savoy Tailors Guild, and factory outlets, and the Fashion Division with a total of 35 Cecil Gee, Hugo Boss, Canali and Beale & Inman stores. The company launched its successful Moss Direct mail order and internet shopping operation in October 2005.

ABOUT SDI GROUP

SDI Group is a leading specialist in the provision of integrated materials handling solutions for retail, wholesale, fulfilment and e-commerce distribution operations.

The Group's collective experience and expertise encompasses the entire spectrum of distribution centre operation and infrastructure, from consultation, design and building to installation, maintenance and support. As a global systems integrator, the Group designs solutions which improve productivity and retail sales margin while supporting sales growth.



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