



Acerinox S.A.

Implementation of a new lift to handle plates during packaging

Category: People
Sub-category: Workplace improvement

Challenge

During the packaging operations, workers stack the stainless steel plates in order to form the package. This operation is carried out with a lifting device that enables the worker to manipulate the plates. As the weight of each plate can be up to 1,800 kilograms, it is not an easy operation and injuries can occur.

It was difficult to use the lifting device to handle packages above 10 centimetres in height. Another disadvantage was that it could only stack sheets up to three-metres long. For longer plates the device had to be changed.



Action

The limitations of the plate lifting device became an issue for the Safety Committee. A new lifting system was assessed and approved.

The new system has a structure with two retractable wedges. The lifting operation is carried out with an overhead crane. Once the lifting device is placed on the plate, the operator only has to open the sides and lower the crane hook. When the hook goes up, the plates are trapped automatically.



Outcome

The new lifting crane facilitates plate stacking, and minimises manual handling and repetitive work. It has reduced the physical workload of the operators who carry out this job.

The lifting device reduces the time needed to stack the plates. It works with plates of all width and lengths.

