



556 Commerce Street, Franklin Lakes, NJ 07417 Tel: (201) 405-0311

Material Handling in the Pharmaceutical Environment



The Meto Safety Advantage

When it comes to purchasing safe material handling equipment, consumers have lots of options—but only one real choice: Meto Lift, Inc.

For Meto Lift Engineering Manager Adam Baird, the distinguishing factor isn't so much the equipment itself that makes the difference in safety, but the service and the people who stand behind it.

"We're not doing anything radically different from our competitors," Baird said. "We just pride ourselves on our ability to customize and come up with a safe, unique solution for every customer."

The Meto Approach

Operator safety and product safety are always top of mind when designing equipment, but so are the needs of the customer. Meto Lift strives to deliver safe, reliable, and efficient equipment capable of handling the toughest assignments in the most extreme environments. One of the hallmarks of all Meto Lift equipment is longevity, but most customers find it can help maintain or even improve the quality of their products.

"That's one of the reasons we introduced our new preventive maintenance program," Baird said. "Our equipment is not overly complicated, and most of the time it can be maintained by local maintenance personnel. But we understand that many companies have needed to make difficult cuts to their maintenance divisions or personnel, so our program offers a cost-effective way to make sure our customers have safe, hard-working equipment that will last for years."

Customization and Safety

Customization may not seem like that big of a deal when it comes to safety, but Baird says the two go hand in hand.

"Many times we'll end up helping people redesign their entire process," he said. "We might look at their operation and see where they can improve efficiency *and* safety. For example, they might have a guy up on a mezzanine using a shovel to empty a container. We can offer them a customized solution that will seal the container, mix the product, and then flip and discharge it—all while saving them tremendous amounts of time."

Not only does this speed up the process, it means less product loss, less cleaning, and higher product integrity—not to mention a safer environment for personnel.

Operator Safety

The intuitive controls on Meto Lift equipment aren't just for style or luxury. Meto Lift equipment offers controls that are easily understood by operators and non-operators alike. In cases of an emergency, it's important for everyone in the manufacturing area to be able to understand where the equipment shutoff mechanism is located. And because languages and literacy levels may vary, making sure the shutoff is clearly labeled and simple to understand could mean the difference between life and death.

"A lot of our sales are initiated by Environmental Health & Safety departments within the company," Baird said. "As companies grow, they often discover the need to improve their methods."

Many new operations, for example, may initially rely on the strength and brute force of their employees to achieve certain outcomes—often to the detriment of the employees and the equipment.

“Trying to move a 500-pound drum down a hallway on its rim isn’t good for the drum or the people trying to move it,” Baird said. “Not only are they going to incur more expense in the long-run, they’re also risking serious injury to themselves or others.”

Ergonomics

But operator safety is about more than just mitigating emergencies and avoiding injuries. Meto Lift designers also take into account the long-term health and well being of control operators.

Meto Lift equipment is ergonomically designed to provide as much comfort as possible for operators. Operator positions, height levels and other custom modifications can typically be made during the development of the equipment, and some equipment has standard adjustment capabilities built right in.

Ergonomic safety is often what drives the need for material handling equipment in the first place, Baird said.

“For example, different places have different requirements about how much force can be exerted or how much an operator can lift,” he said. “We take all these concerns into consideration when designing solutions for our customers. That’s why we make sure to adhere to the highest standards.”

Product Safety

While avoiding injury and disabling conditions is important, so is increasing efficiency and maintaining product integrity. That’s why, in addition to taking things like pinch-point hazards, noise levels and electronic emissions into consideration when designing its equipment, Meto Lift also focuses on product safety, as well.

“The FDA has certain requirements for ‘Current Good Manufacturing Practices,’ and they cover a wide range of product safety and integrity guidelines,” Baird said. “We adhere to these regulations, but we also have stringent internal controls to make sure every piece of Meto Lift equipment meets or exceeds these standards.”

The method by which equipment is manufactured makes a huge difference in the day-to-day operations of a food processing or pharmaceutical plant.

“Making sure equipment can be easily cleaned and sterilized is absolutely critical for certain operations,” Baird said. “There can be no harboring of bacteria and no cross-contamination. This is very important for the food industry when it comes to allergies, for example. And in the pharmaceutical industry, cross contamination can shut down entire plants for days.”

Safeguarding the Process

In addition to adhering to the many requirements outlined by various government agencies, Meto Lift has its own litany of checks to ensure every piece of equipment is inspected for safety before going out the door.

“We make sure there are no crevices in the welds, no flat surfaces where dust can accumulate, and that everything drains the way it is supposed to,” Baird said.

That’s where surface finish becomes important, Baird said, and that’s one area where Meto Lift is visibly superior to its competitors.

“We’re very proud of our finishes, and we exceed industry standards in that regard,” Baird said. “We use very high grades of stainless steel, and our finishes are of the very highest quality. Not only do these details make the equipment safer and easier to clean, they also provide a clean look, as well.”

Just as Meto Lift equipment is engineered to deliver many years of reliable service, it is also designed to protect the products and personnel that are so important to any successful operation.

Meto Lift: Quality equipment from quality engineers.