

# Innovations in glass industry SAFETY

After over thirty years of working in glass and notwithstanding numerous advancements regarding SAFETY management practices within the industry, I believe we've failed to keep pace with current achievements where securing glass onto stillages inside trucks and onto side frames is concerned.

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A specialist in transport and logistics within the glass industry, I've spent 25 years working in the UK and have worked in Perth WA since 2011, where my role has expanded to include operational management.. To describe a typical factory scenario today, our glass gets transferred to the hands of delivery drivers. It's at this point that glass business owners and

managers alike are familiar with the same, dreaded phone call which either informs us that glass stacks have been lost inside some truck or that sheets have fallen over. Then, after learning that all workers involved in the accident are safe and unharmed, the factory plans its remaking of the lost materials which, once resupplied, are transported in like manner again – potentially risking a reoccurrence of the same accident.

## TROUBLESHOOTING SAFETY HAZARDS

On-site, unattended partially-unloaded stillages often result in IG units ending up mysteriously on the floor - usually after being knocked over by some subcontractor or forklift driver. The factory must then find replacements, which causes glazing delays. All this has prompted efforts on our part to seek solutions by which products can be kept

Dual paddle system device (single stax) designed to troubleshoot falling sheets and potential safety hazards. Here the paddles, toothed area and retaining bar at the back are all visible - the goal being to create varying fittings for different racking styles, even though the horizontal bar will already fit a great number of standard stillages. Going forward, the plan is to develop ones of different-sizes too that can be used in various working environments.





Glass to be placed through the back of the A frame once the pole has been released.

secure -and employees safe- while stillages are being unloaded. Needless to say, this is a very difficult task to accomplish after some pole has been removed or the banding strapping cut. We've even received the occasional request to strap each individual piece to a stillage instead - which is both labour-intensive and ineffective in cost terms.

### ADDRESSING LOADING ISSUES

All things considered, a device that can keep glass/IGUs securely in place, also when it's being unloaded, is necessary in this case – especially one that can keep both glass and employees safe. Throughout several years, incidents have occurred with material being unloaded and the remain-



Outer paddle to be moved and placed further away from the inner paddle.



Lean a single piece out against the remaining paddle. This creates space to place the free paddle back in, tight against the remaining glass. The glass is kept in place whilst the front piece is removed.



Inner paddle to be inserted closest to the glass to keep it in place.

ing glass on the transporting stillage toppling over - causing injuries and, in some cases, even fatalities. To address these concerns, I've created a device that keeps glass/IGUs and employees safe - whether on construction sites or in the workplace. It enables the primary securing method to be removed, thereby ensuring that both the glass and the employees remain safe. This allows pieces to be removed from a stack - keeping each item behind it restrained and intact while also remaining in place.

I plan to develop the device further before introducing it to the glass market. Here I am open to any feedback regarding the benefits and potential for the industry and I'm also interested in any offers for support and marketing.

Lost time in respect of material losses or employees have a major impact upon our business, so any improvement here with safety can only come as a benefit. For more information or any correspondence, kindly contact:

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