



Increased Safety at Camuna Cavi

By Matteo Feroldi

Camuna Cavi in Edolo, Italy, have invested in safety and increased productivity for their plant. In detail they have invested in special transpallets and zoning of indoor areas.

What were the challenges before buying transpallets?

The advanced age of the previous forklifts led to an extraordinary increase in maintenance costs. The older forklift electronics did not allow for a precise reduction of speed, as per LAPP standard. The forklifts were used to handle both drums and pallets, forklift forks increase the risk of damaging drums and cables. As the forklifts were very bulky, using them in the narrow path of the shopfloor implied risk for people, equipment, and products. Furthermore, the existing electrical forklifts did not allow a fast battery charge leading to long-time unavailability during the recharging phase. The handling space required for big forklifts was limiting the possibility to use shelves for optimal raw material stocking which impacted heavily on shopfloor zoning. At times the heavy weight of our drums forced us to use the big gasoline forklift inside the factory.



How has the situation been improved?

Two forklifts were sold and were replaced by three specially designed transpallets. These new machines equipped with shaped forks were designed to accommodate drums, finished and semi-finished products. The three transpallets have different sizes to manage the full range of drums with diameters expanding from 700 to 2.500 mm and with a weight of up to 8.000 kg. A very helpful aspect is the fact that the three vehicles have the same battery, as one more battery is sufficient to avoid unscheduled stops. Finally, the purchasing and maintenance costs are approximately 70% less compared to a new forklift with similar loading capacity.

The benefit for drum handling is that transpallets are significantly less bulky than counterbalance forklifts and allow for increased flexibility in the narrow paths of the plant, reducing the risk to damage to either products or equipment while improving efficiency. Contrary to a counterbalance forklift, a transpallet is designed to transit with the load in the rear, this allows for a clear view in front reducing the risk of an accident. In addition, the training required to operate a transpallet can be conducted internally instead of an authorized third-party training course to operate a forklift as per Italian law.

The special transpallets have allowed a radical redesign of the indoor warehouse storage area. This has led to an increase in the number of shelves allowing significantly more indoor storage space for raw materials that normally struggle outdoors against the elements.

Together with the new equipment, the floor of the whole production area was renewed using epoxy resins and silica sand. This solution allowed us to not only fix all the floor damage but to also improve safety further by creating specific color-coded zoning, this includes vehicles transit pathways and people walkways. In addition, the new material is dustless and is easier to clean.