

SAINT-GOBAIN PAM UK TAKING A LOAD OFF CUSTOMERS MINDS

Reducing falls from vehicles **Case study –**

Iron pipe and fittings supplier Saint-Gobain PAM UK, in association with its logistics partner Wincanton and K B Gundel & Son Transport have devised a unique solution to a common problem on construction sites – the safe unloading of pipes from flat-bedded vehicles.

The challenge.

Saint-Gobain PAM UK had originally been approached by one of its water industry customers to discuss how the on-site pipe unloading process could be improved.

Unloading by crane requires individuals to access the trailer bed to fit pipe hooks or slings to the lengths of pipe, at this point they are often exposed to the risk of falling from the trailer, potential ‘pipe roll’ and the possibility of being hit by a heavy pipe swinging from a crane, which can cause serious injury, or worse.

Another option is unloading by forklift truck but, as the pipe’s centre of gravity may not always be at the mid-point due to pipe design, the risk of an unstable load causing an accident is ever present.

Saint-Gobain’s aim was to develop a solution that did not require site workers to be involved in the unloading process or to access the trailer bed during unloading.



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The Solution

The hydraulic unloading beam, developed by Mansfield-based Gundel Transport, is fitted to the centre of the trailer bed.

The delivery vehicle crane is operated remotely from ground level and, through the use of different attachments, can unload single pipes, pipe bundles and pallets.

On arrival at the site, the driver sets an exclusion zone, straps the control pad to his waist and unloads the pipes.

For individual pipes, the boom incorporates a mechanism which locks into the end of the pipes.

The reach of the boom – up to 13 metres - allows it to unload from other vehicles as well – a major bonus if a large delivery of pipes has taken place.



Individual pipes are secured to the beam by a hydraulic locking system, as shown in this picture

The Result

The use of the beam removes the need for the operator or slinger to place themselves at risk when attaching or removing hooks, chains or slings.

As the unloading beam is part of the delivery vehicle it eliminates the need for a crane or forklift truck to assist with unloading, this makes it ideal for working in areas where space is restricted.

The beam is attached to a lorry loader crane by trained staff, depending on the complexity of the lift a single banksman in a supervisory role may be required.

Further information from Saint-Gobain PAM UK Ltd