

# NEW BELGIUM BREWING

## CASE STUDY

### QUICK FACTS

**COMPANY:** New Belgium Brewing Company  
Fort Collins, Colorado

**FOUNDED:** 1991

**FACILITY:** 205,000 square-foot brewery and packaging center and 180,000 square-foot distribution center in Fort Collins, Colorado

**PRODUCT:** Third-largest brewer of craft beer in the nation – popular brands include *Fat Tire*, *Ranger IPA*, *1554* and *Shift*

**GOALS:** Identify a safer, more efficient way to secure trailers at the loading dock while finding a solution to smooth the transition between the loading dock floor and trailer beds.

**SOLUTION:** Rite-Hite Dok-Lok® Vehicle Restraints and Hydraulic Dock Levelers.

**RESULTS:** Rite-Hite's Dok-Lok vehicle restraints improve the safety of workers by preventing trailer separation accidents, while the company's hydraulic dock levelers, featuring smooth transition, can reduce "dock shock" by up to 76 percent when compared to standard levelers. By adding the hydraulic levelers, New Belgium Brewing has reduced the risk of injuries to workers, increased productivity and reduced damage to equipment and product.

### THE SITUATION

New Belgium Brewing is the third-largest brewer of craft beer in the nation and the eighth-largest brewery in the United States. The company currently sells beer in 33 states and the District of Columbia and produces more than 764,000 barrels of beer per year.

New Belgium Brewing currently operates a 205,000 square-foot brewery and packaging center in Fort Collins. The facility has 25 loading dock bays that receive a variety of materials on a daily basis, including: kegs, cans, bottles, corrugated cardboard and raw materials. In addition, New Belgium operates a 180,000 square-foot distribution center in Fort Collins with 20 loading dock bays.

**"We tried other automated vehicle restraints in the past, and they didn't stand up to the daily wear and tear. Once we transitioned to the Dok-Lok restraints, we had no issues. They're bulletproof."**

**- BRUCE CLARK, FACILITY/PROJECT MANAGER  
NEW BELGIUM BREWING COMPANY**



New Belgium's 205,000 square-foot facility has 25 loading dock bays that receive a variety of materials on a daily basis, including: kegs, cans, bottles, corrugated cardboard and raw materials.

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## THE SOLUTION

After a thorough analysis of New Belgium's loading docks, Arbon Equipment recommended and installed a complete loading dock system, including automatic vehicle restraints, hydraulic dock levelers and an integrated control/communication system. This created a safer, more efficient way to secure trailers at the loading dock while smoothing the transition between the loading dock floor and trailer beds.

New Belgium installed Dok-Lok vehicle restraints, which have a wide vertical engagement range (9 to 30 inches), helping to prevent trailer separation accidents.

"We tried other automated vehicle restraints in the past, and they didn't stand up to the daily wear and tear," said Bruce Clark, facility/project manager for New Belgium Brewing. "Once we transitioned to the new restraints, we had no issues. They're bulletproof."

Standard dock levelers had produced "dock shock" for forklift operators as they entered and exited trailers. Clark was also looking for a way to smooth out the transition to reduce wear and tear on employees, equipment and product. Rite-Hite dock levelers with Smooth Transition® technology can reduce dock shock by up to 76 percent when compared to standard levelers.



New Belgium installed Dok-Lok vehicle restraints, which have a wide vertical engagement range (9 to 30 inches), helping to prevent trailer separation accidents.



Rite-Hite's hydraulic dock levelers with Smooth Transition technology can reduce "dock shock" by as much as 76 percent when compared to standard levelers.

**"By adding these new levelers, we're reducing the risk of injuries to our workers. We're also seeing increased productivity and reduced damage to our equipment and product, which is a huge plus."**

**- BRUCE CLARK, FACILITY/PROJECT MANAGER  
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Additionally, the dock levelers installed at New Belgium are equipped with a slotted safety lip, creating a 7-inch high steel barrier once the leveler is in the stored position. This protects against vacant dock drop-off accidents, stopping a 10,000-pound load moving at four miles per hour.

"By adding these new levelers, we're reducing the risk of injuries to our workers," Clark said. "We're also seeing increased productivity and reduced damage to our equipment and product, which is a huge plus."

Clark continued, "Our company is evolving on a daily basis. As a result, we've had to invest in new equipment and technologies that create greater efficiencies, while protecting the health and safety of our workers."