

Custom Air Skids for Semi-trailer Assembly



The Situation

Kentucky Trailer is the nation's leading manufacturer of custom moving vans for the moving and storage industry. In 2009, as the company was preparing to open a state-of-the-art facility for mixed model trailer production, they began to reassess their method of moving trailers through the various production stages. Previously, they had always used a linear, in-the-ground track which required four to five workers to move each trailer and limited the number of trailers they could fit in the facility. The company decided they needed a more flexible option. They turned to the versatility of air bearings.

The Solution

Airfloat satisfied Kentucky Trailer's need with the simplicity of air skids. Air Skids provide the ideal versatile, modular system that can be customized to match practically any load configuration and weight—which was ideal since trailer length varies in their facility. Workers use a small ramp to move trailers on and off the air skids which then allows omni-directional movement around the manufacturing facility.

The Result

Airfloat has helped Kentucky Trailer improve productivity, enhance worker ergonomics and safety and maximized the use of their floor space. With air bearings, two to three workers can easily move 20,000 pound trailers in any direction—even in spaces too tight for fork trucks to maneuver. Plus, since air bearings are easily reconfigured they can be used on any application in the facility with ease.