
Straddle carriers

Automatic lubrication

SKF Multilube



SKF Multilube automates lubrication in straddle carriers, increasing reliability and productivity

By enabling straddle carriers to operate with a centralized, automatic lubrication solution, SKF is helping the Port of Gothenburg operate more profitably, with less unplanned downtime.

As the largest seaport in Scandinavia, Sweden's Port of Gothenburg handles some 880,000 shipping containers alone annually. Thanks to the port's recent public/private restructuring arrangement, port operators are even more focused on processing those containers as profitably as possible.

Unfortunately, the straddle carriers used in the Ro/ro terminal that move and stack heavy paper containers (up to 95 tonnes) had long been troubled by frequent, unplanned downtime. The problem? A semi-automatic, semi-manual lubrication system that provided inadequate lubrication for many vehicle points, eventually leading to failed bearings and costly productivity losses.

Inaccurate lubrication also caused excess grease to drip on the ground, presenting significant health, safety and environmental risks. Worse still, the fleet's aging lubrication system could not be expanded to accommodate changing requirements, nor could it monitor grease levels.

Looking for a solution that would limit unplanned downtime and drive productivity, the port operator looked to SKF for lubrication options. SKF suggested SKF Multilube – an automatic, centralized lubrication system designed for heavy vehicles with many lubrication points.

The straddle carriers certainly had the requisite number of lubrication points. SKF technicians identified 96 lubrication points on each truck, as well as 16 points on the sliding surfaces overhead. SKF also conducted a grease review to ensure that the optimum lubricant would be in use to accommodate seasonal temperature changes.





Upon completion of that review, SKF began the first installation, a process made easier by the Multilube system's design. To reduce the cost and complexity of retrofits, the system features a modular design for maximum flexibility during installation.

During operation, the SKF Multilube system delivers the exact amount of lubricant, exactly when and where it is required. A control unit, pump, reservoir, directional valve and pressure monitor function together to provide lubrication. The system also features a built-in heating element that enables reliable operation in low temperatures, to which the port is exposed for several months of the year.

Following installation, the port operator put the SKF Multilube system to the test, seeing how it would perform during actual offloads. The operator reported positive results.

Straddle carrier reliability and availability has increased, allowing a corresponding reduction in unplanned downtime and maintenance demands. The precision lubrication eliminated over-greasing, allowing for a reduction in grease consumption, plus a much safer, grease-free work area.

More than satisfied with the overall savings and increased productivity, the port operator decided to install SKF Multilube on the Ro/ro terminal's remaining straddle carriers.

SKF Multilube

- Automates lubrication
- Reduces unplanned downtime
- Increases reliability and productivity
- Helps prevent bearing failures
- Reduces maintenance costs
- Cuts lubricant consumption



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