

Application News

redi-rail®

Redi-Rail® Slides into Safety

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If you take a close look at Pacific Bearing Company, the manufacturing floor is a showcase of homemade safety additions. Gadgets and guards designed from off-the-shelf components, using the company's own products when and wherever possible.

For 25 years now, Pacific Bearing Company has manufactured linear motions systems and components. The company's mission is to solve linear motion application challenges. Sometimes those solutions stay inhouse, like the machine guards pictured here. Not long after a multiuse CNC milling fixture and the automated palette exchanger were put to work, employees noticed moisture and debris in the air and the surrounding floor. The system was messy and wearing the required safety glasses did not seem like enough. Fortunately, problems that cause concern do not last long when engineers walk past them several times a day.

Using a material much like Plexiglas, a tough transparent acrylic plastic that can be used in place of glass, and Redi-Rail slides and guides, they assembled a manually adjustable guard to block air-borne debris and moisture from escaping the palette exchanger as palettes are moved in and out of the milling fixture. A manual pulley is all that is needed to open the window.

The conditions in this application dictated the product. Even though speed and repetition were not important, the solution had to withstand harsh conditions. Stability, durability and reliability were the foremost factors. Moreover, skimping on safety just doesn't set a good example.

Safety is a constant consideration in the manufacturing business. Beyond the rules and regulations, sometimes a company's best source of safety suggestions come from employees paying attention to their own surroundings.

Pacific Bearing Company's Redi-Rail was the perfect product for the job. The guides and slides are precision manufactured to avoid assembly stress and general wear and tear. In addition, sizing control and options mean you



Redi-Rail makes this machine shield mobile, providing a simple safety solution for Pacific Bearing Company.

components needed for the job. In this case, it is a vertical application with loads applied onto opposing slides, distributing the load accordingly. The roller's internal elements are maintenance free and minimum lubrication is needed on the raceways. In addition, a surface treatment ensures the hardness and corrosion resistance. Not only is Redi-Rail practically maintenance free, it is quite possible that the low cost, homemade machine shield will outlive the expensive machinery that it was built for.

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SMOOTH & QUIET LINEAR MOTION™

