

Dock Star

There are some big household names in European transport, logistics and material handling and there are other less well-known names which pack a powerful punch with a strong presence and vitality across the sector. We focus this month on a great example of the latter: Stertil Dock Products.

Stertil Dock Products has been a top specialist in loading bay dock equipment for over 25 years. Shaping the future of loading bays across the world with high quality, ergonomic loading and unloading solutions, as well as class-leading safety, Stertil is located not in the beating heart of London, Frankfurt or Paris but in the very small village of Kootstertille in the northern Netherlands, west of Groningen.

From these headquarters loading bay dock products are designed, engineered, manufactured, marketed and distributed all over the world. Manufacturing is carried out solely at the HQ's modern flow manufacturing production facility. To reach the market, the Stertil Group has sales organisations in the UK, Germany, France, Turkey, Poland, France, USA and China. Stertil Dock Products also has an extensive distributor network worldwide to serve local requirements.

According to Bart van der Steen of the company's global sales team, the Stertil

approach is based on focus, and giving the customer what they need for their particular situation. "This is why Stertil Dock Products is the preferred supplier to many of the large internationally orientated food, parcel, and general distribution and warehousing organisations in the world in both new builds and for the replacement market," he says. "What is different at Stertil Dock Products is that we have our own production facility in The Netherlands and we have a complete Research, Development and Engineering group dedicated to solving the challenges of the 21st century loading bay facility."

His reference to the food industry and the company's R&D heft is backed up by the evidence that Stertil Dock Products offers complete solutions for the food industry with the sector's specific requirements for temperature control and hygiene. In Stertil's case, that means optimum insulation during loading and unloading. This combines a smooth and safe loading and unloading process with comprehensive

protection against external temperatures, draughts, insects and vermin.

Logistics managers are readily aware that temperature control and energy efficiency are vitally important in maintaining a constant climate within the distribution centre or warehouse. This is particularly the case for the food industry and other products which can be negatively affected by fluctuations in temperature during the loading and unloading process. "We don't sell products at Stertil Dock Products, we design solutions which fit your particular logistics requirements," says Bart van der Steen. "That includes any building situation and any fleet of vehicles. We are focused on the future based on a wealth of current and past experience in the loading bay equipment industry. It's also important to point out that we supply all types of industry sectors from traditional warehousing to highly automated, extremely fast turnaround consumer goods."



THE PRODUCTS

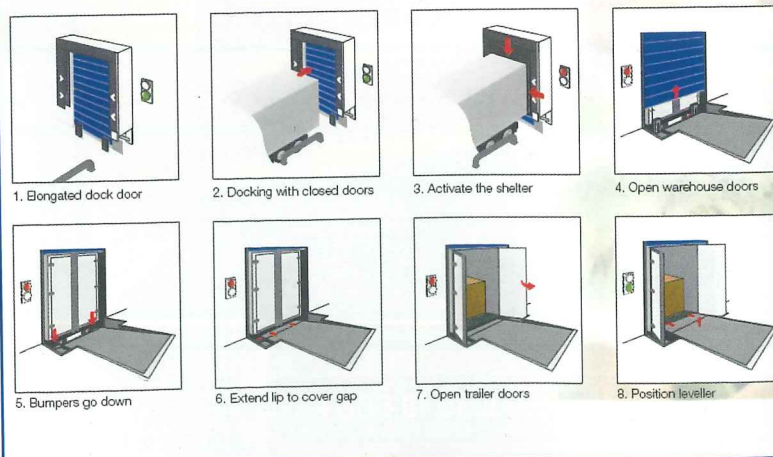
CLOSED DOOR DOCKING SYSTEM

Temperature and hygiene control are essential within the food industry, especially for perishable products. An extra daily challenge for any logistics centre is to control energy consumption and stabilise the temperature fluctuations which occur when the doors are opened of either a) the vehicle or b) the distribution centre itself.

The great benefit of this innovation is that it enables docking without opening doors. Stertil Closed Door Docking contributes to optimal temperature control within your distribution centre during the loading and unloading process, because it is an energy effective system which prevents temperature fluctuations.

DOCKING WITHOUT OPENING DOORS

The Stertil Closed Door Docking principle has many advantages, and contributes to an optimal climate control before, during and after the loading and unloading process.



THE DOCK SHELTER

Improving energy efficiency in logistics is crucial for environmental sustainability and can be achieved by increasing the utilisation of capacity. A fast and effective airtight seal for the door opening between the building and the vehicle is one great way to help achieve those ends.

The Stertil Dock Shelter is both inflatable and airtight and comes with side curtains. It seals the corners, top and bottom of the loading dock and takes just 15 seconds to inflate. Completely versatile and therefore suitable for all types of vehicle using the dock, it leaves the warehouse opening completely unobstructed. Given the sometimes lively and hectic nature of dock movements, Stertil have taken care to make the inflatable shelter both robust and durable, while white-marking chevrons for safe and accurate approach and positioning are also part of the package.

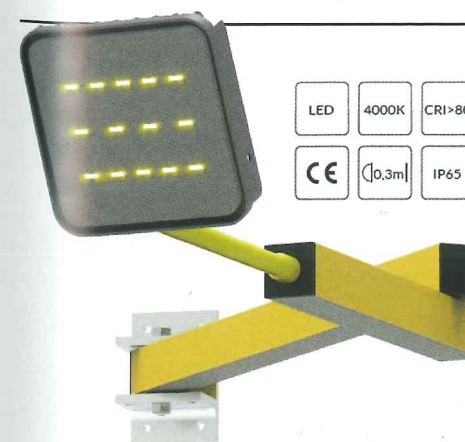


THE DOCK LEVELLER

Recognising the fast-changing nature of dock operations and the size and style of vehicle using them, Stertil's galvanised step frame Dock Leveller is designed to offer smooth and safe transition from the vehicle floor to the warehouse platform floor.

It has a telescopic sliding lip, adjustable up to 1,000 mm for complete fleet versatility, and fits perfectly, with no gaps. The stepped frame is completely sealed with the docked vehicle to enable a hermetic closed system.

The package is easy to install and operates with the Stertil Multi-Control System for the door, shelter and leveller.



SAFETY FIRST

Other safety-conscious Stertil products include its PE adjustable bumpers and its range of dock lighting systems.

COMBILOK VEHICLE RESTRAINT



Stertil takes a class-leading approach to safety in its loading dock products, and includes people, vehicles and property alike in its thinking. One result is the Combilok, an easy-to-install vehicle restraint system that ensures lorries or vans stay firmly in place while their contents are being loaded or unloaded. Left unchecked, a vehicle has the potential to cause damage to both people and property if it moves, even at distances as small as under a metre.



Combilok's smartness lies in there being no obstacles on the approach to the loading bay. Stertil promises complete reliability and minimum maintenance. A fully integrated control mechanism works with the door, shelter and leveller and warnings are made through both optical and audio signals.

www.stertil-dockproducts.com