



Case Story

Arla Foods uses BT stacker at flagship dairy

The Rødkærsgro Dairy produces Mozzarella and grated cheeses for markets across Europe, the Middle East and Asia. State-of-the-art technology, optimal production conditions, and an expert staff work with the goal of producing “the world’s most desired cheese and butter assortment”.

Located in central Jutland in Denmark, Rødkærsgro is one of Arla Food’s largest dairies. It was opened in 1989 and is now dedicated to the production of Mozzarella, and to the grating of various cheeses. As demand for these products grew throughout the 1990s the plant was expanded and now covers an area of some 26,000m². Annual production is 36,500 tonnes, with a milk consumption of 380,000 tonnes.

Fleet of warehouse trucks

Part of the plant’s infrastructure is a fleet of warehouse trucks supplied by BT Denmark. This includes several hand trucks, powered pallet trucks and stackers, reach trucks, narrow-aisle trucks, and a counterbalance truck. The factory is highly automated and also features a BT Autopilot AS 20 powered pallet truck, which transports pallet loads between set locations without the need for an operator.

BT model HWE100 offers flexibility

Recently, Arla Foods has been successfully using a BT model — the Minimover HWE100. This is a compact pallet truck with single-column mast that can be used for horizontal pallet movement as well as stacking.

Chilled store supervisor Keld Ib explains: “We have worktables built into the floor next to these conveyors which automatically maintain a comfortable working height for the operator as they are unloaded. The new BT HWE100 offers the same functionality but with much greater flexibility. For example, we are using it to handle the incoming boxes of cheese that we process for grating. This involves removing the cartons from the cheeses and lifting each 20kg block from one pallet to another. The new truck makes it easy to do this just where we need to in the factory.”

Real difference to the operators

“We are very happy with the Minimover,” continued Ib. “It has already become an essential part of our operation. We also use the manual BT High Lifter with the same photocell functionality, but the Minimover has the extra benefit of making light work of moving a heavy pallet of cheeses, which makes a real difference to our operators.”



Focus on working conditions

Arla Foods is particularly concerned with product quality and environmental management, and also with the working conditions of its staff. For example, great importance is attached to the avoidance of lifting heavy loads and unbalanced or 'one-sided' manual operations. The factory's refrigerated warehouse contains a work area from where a conveyor system feeds the plant's grating system. Operators move plastic-coated blocks of cheese from modular plastic crates stacked on Euro-pallets. The cheese is lifted with a vacuum lifting system, which can handle the contents of three crates at a time. The operator deposits these on to the conveyor, which takes them up to the grating machines.

The BT Minimover HWE100 trucks in use at Rødkærøbro are fitted with an optional height adjustment system that allows the truck to function in the same manner as Arla Food's elevating worktables. The truck will automatically adjust the height of the forks to maintain the top of the load at the desired height, even as boxes are moved on and off. This means that the operator can always work in the most comfortable way, without having to stop, or lift loads any further than necessary.

Facts about Arla Rødkærøbro Dairy:

<i>Activities:</i>	Produces Mozzarella and grated cheeses
<i>Location:</i>	Rødkærøbro, Denmark
<i>Established:</i>	1989
<i>Plant size:</i>	26 000 m ²
<i>Annual production:</i>	36 500 tonnes
<i>Markets:</i>	Europe, Middle East and Asia

Facts about Minimover HWE100

<i>Lifting capacity:</i>	1,000kg
<i>Battery capacity:</i>	50 Ah
<i>Drive speed:</i>	5,4 km/h
<i>Brake system:</i>	Electromagnetic

BT fleet list, Rødkærøbro Dairy:

- 2 Minimover HWE100 stackers, with optional height adjustment system
- 10 BT High Lifter, with optional height adjustment system
- 2 Orion LWE180 powered pallet trucks
- 3 Orion LPE240 powered pallet trucks
- 1 Ixion SWE120 powered stacker
- 1 Cargo C4G counterbalance truck
- 3 Reflex RR N2 reach trucks
- 2 Veflex narrow-aisle trucks
- 1 BT Autopilot AS 20 powered pallet truck



BT
SE-595 81 MJÖLBY
Tel: +46 - (0)142/860 00
Fax: +46 - (0)142/860 80
www.bt-forklifts.com



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