

# How do you safely handle a Banana Box full of groceries?... Actually hundreds of them.

## The Problem

At a large east coast grocery chain, the stores daily have merchandise that needs to be “reclaimed” or returned. Items include all types of groceries from canned goods, to bottles, to cartons and cases that are out of date, damaged or possibly even subject to a recall by the original supplier. Each individual supermarket collects these goods and packs them into empty Banana Boxes for return to the chain’s central distribution center.

At the distribution center the palletized Banana Boxes are unloaded at a staging or sorting area. The pallets are typically 4 layers high with 6 boxes per layer for a total of 24 boxes per pallet. Each box, weigh up to 40 lbs., has to be manually removed from the pallets and placed on sorting platform where employees sort the individual grocery items by hand into three categories.

1. Returned to original supplier
2. Donated to local charities
3. Recycled or discarded

This is a huge manual material handling task. In a typical day a worker may move dozens of boxes from the pallet to the sorting table. That can translate into workers lifting thousands of pounds over the course of a shift, not to mention all of the bending, stretching and postural issues.



## The Solution

To alleviate the risk of worker injury and to minimize fatigue management has invested in ergonomic equipment.

Specifically, they have purchased a hydraulic lift table with a large 40” x 48” platform. The 2,000-pound capacity lift will position the boxes vertically so workers can access them without bending or stretching.

In operation, the entire pallet load is placed onto the lift. Workers sort items from each box and as each layer of boxes is removed the lift is raised placing the next layer of boxes at a comfortable height for easy access.

Additionally, the lift is equipped with a turntable platform that allows workers to easily rotate the pallet so they can access each box from the nearside without reaching out across, or walking around the pallet.

The addition of this simple ergonomic device has made work faster, safer and easier.



Lift table with conventional turntable top



Lift table with flushmount turntable top



Low-profile lift table with flushmount turntable top