

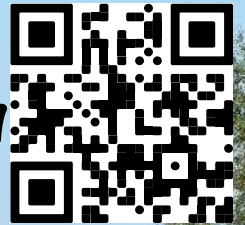


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SCAN ME



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How to carry out bulk loading of maritime containers?

For the bulk transport of granular materials, the use of bulk carriers or the use of bagging and big-bagging methods are predominant. However, another method of transport is developing: bulk container loading. We asked Olivier Dobelle, managing partner of SAUTEC, to tell us about this method of transport and the solutions that exist.

In recent months, many investments have been made in the cocoa sector, both by manufacturers and logistics operators. This is proof of the continuing strong global demand for chocolate.

The export of cocoa beans is what enabled SAUTEC company to carry out its first tests in bulk container loading, particularly in the Ivory Coast, almost 10 years

"We improve our customers' bulk logistics flows with mobile equipment that adapts to our customers' needs. These innovative solutions complement existing fixed container stuffing technologies"

ago. While traditionally, exports in bags are prevailing in Africa, bulk exports are growing significantly.

As Olivier Dobelle explains, several factors have amplified this phenomenon: "The bulk loading of containers allows exporters to handle more goods in the same time period. This is a significant factor when you consider that port areas are congested. Loading times are faster and handling operations are reduced. For some end customers, bulk has the advantage of being more suitable for supplying storage and processing units". All in all, this contributes to speeding up and optimising the whole logistics chain.

However, bulk loading operations require the right equipment.



Storage warehouse with bagged cocoa beans.



2-in-1 container tipper for bulk loading of 20-ft and 40-ft containers.

"When we developed our first container loading equipment, our aim was to help exporting companies adapt to this new mode of shipment and become more autonomous, regardless of the technical means at their disposal" adds the co-manager.

Gradually, SAUTEC has developed a range of equipment for bulk loading, whatever the position of the container: inclined, horizontal on a trailer or on the ground.

The container tipper to exploit the full capacity of the container.

The container tipper gives customers the possibility to tilt the sea containers to the required angle for top loading. Using a conveyor belt or other handling equipment, the bulk material is transported to the container entrance. Gravity does the rest. The equipment offered by SAUTEC is 2-in-1 to allow the tilting of 20-ft and 40-ft sea containers. "In addition to making full use of the containers' capacity, quickly and safely, this allows customers to be

more flexible and adapt to situations," says Olivier Dobelle.

The mobile loading conveyor for tipping trailers.

The mobile loading conveyor is a solution for customers who use container tipping trailers for transporting and unloading granular

materials. "This solution makes it possible to preserve all the autonomy and versatility of the tipping trailers" according to Olivier Dobelle. Indeed, this wheeled belt lift is easily movable, allowing the container to be stuffed wherever the customer wishes.



Loading a container positioned on a tipping trailer.



Versatile telescopic belt conveyor for loading containers on trailers or on the ground

The loading conveyor for containers on trailers or on the ground.

The loading conveyor is a belt conveyor which has the particularity of having a diagonally inclined part to lift the goods, and a horizontal part that enters the container to fill it.

When the container is placed on a trailer, the loading is made progressively, as the truck driver moves forward to fill the container. "Contrary to what one might think, it is possible to obtain a correct filling rate for bulk stuffing of 20-ft containers in a horizontal position. Generally, in this case, the container is lined with a liner, which makes it possible to easily achieve a fill rate of about 80/90%" explains the co-manager of SAUTEC, before adding: "This is a versatile and economical solution that is very much appreciated in Africa, as this type of equipment adapts to the configuration of the customer's site and, for a low investment cost, makes it possible to significantly improve the container loading time".

A telescopic version is also available and is generally preferred for containers placed on the ground. This solution, equipped with swivel front wheels, offers the possibility of alternating the loading between 2 or even 3 containers. This means that no time is lost when handling the containers. While one container is being moved, loading operations are not stopped and can be carried out in another container.

PHOTO 6: Versatile telescopic belt conveyor for loading containers on trailers or on the ground.

Initially intended for the cocoa industry, the solutions offered by SAUTEC have enabled it to reach new customers, particularly in the agro-industry and waste management sectors, those who want to be able to load containers in complete autonomy.

Innovative mobile solutions that complement existing technologies.

As Olivier Dobelle explains, "We improve our customers' bulk logistics flows with mobile equipment that adapts to our customers' needs. These innovative solutions complement existing fixed container stuffing technologies".

