

Productivity Drives Success

One of the most successful foodservice companies in the Midwest, Kuna Foodservice (Kuna) has been providing quality service to clients for more than 90 years. Faced with the challenge of a new larger facility and operating in a range of environments, Kuna turned to Jungheinrich® warehousing products for a customized solution.

Originally founded as a family-owned butcher shop, Kuna has since developed into the largest independent, privately-owned foodservice company and steak processor in the St. Louis, Mo., area.

Over the years, Kuna's mounting business success has led to a growth in product volume and the need for more space, causing the company to expand into a 98,000-square-foot distribution center that includes a refrigerated receiving dock, freezer and storage area for paper and canned foods.

Faced with the challenge of a new larger facility and operating in a range of environments, Kuna needed lift trucks designed to meet the productivity and throughput needs of a high-velocity warehouse. After extensive research, Kuna turned to Jungheinrich for help in redefining its material handling operation.

AT A GLANCE:

- Kuna Foodservice

Foodservice Company
And Steak Processor

www.kunafoodservice.com



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ETV 214



THE CHALLENGE:

- 24-hour operation
- 98,000-square-foot distribution center
- Multiple environments: refrigerated receiving dock, freezer and storage area

THE SOLUTION:

- ETV 214 moving mast reach trucks
- ECR 336 walkie end-riders
- Proprietary Jungheinrich AC technology for increased performance on one battery charge
- Knowledgeable dealers and technicians throughout North America

Jungheinrich: An Ergonomic, Efficient Lift Truck

Kuna's management and warehouse staff were initially hesitant to try the German brand. Jungheinrich's product line offered a sit-down reach truck in addition to the stand-up style of reach truck the operators had been using for more than 15 years.

Despite the initial skepticism, Kuna agreed to a trial of the Jungheinrich ETV 214 moving mast reach truck. Equipped with 3-phase AC technology, the ETV 214 had significantly faster travel speeds than Kuna's previous material handling equipment, allowing operators to move more efficiently through their facility.

"The Jungheinrich reach trucks move quicker up, down, and front and back than any truck I've worked with in my 11 years here," said Rich Garavaglia, a warehouse employee at Kuna Foodservice.

Sold On Customer Service

After the initial trial phase, Kuna purchased three ETV 214 moving mast reach trucks and seven ECR 336 walkie end-rider pallet trucks to replace its existing fleet. A 24-hour operation, Kuna now relies on the moving mast reach trucks during the day to stock warehouse materials and the walkies at night to fill and load product orders into trucks.

A proactive strategy to keep the forklifts performing at optimal levels, Kuna also secured a planned maintenance schedule for the fleet. A maintenance representative from the local Jungheinrich dealership routinely visits Kuna to service and maintain the equipment. "Jungheinrich has fulfilled all of our service needs quickly and efficiently," said Garavaglia.

The Jungheinrich products' efficient movements, combined with a range of productivity-enhancing features and options, are appreciated by the Kuna workforce, allowing them to complete their tasks in record time.

"We look forward to continuing to work with them as a partner for years to come," said Schuler.

Customized For Success

Working in temperatures from 65 to minus 6 degrees Fahrenheit, Kuna chose to equip its entire fleet of ETV 214 moving mast reach trucks with a freezer package to combat the company's extreme work conditions.

The freezer package includes:

- Heated leather seat and paneling for enhanced operator comfort while driving.
- Frame and chassis treated with anti-corrosion primer paint to lessen the impact of cold conditions and help prevent rust from forming in the condensation-rich environment.
- Specially formulated cold store grease coats all moving parts on the ETV 214 to ensure high-performance levels at low temperatures.

The regenerative lowering feature, also included on Kuna's fleet of ETV 214s, includes an enhanced 14 kW hydraulic motor that helps reclaim energy during the lowering process.

- The energy conserved during braking allows the battery charge on Kuna's Jungheinrich products to last up to 12 hours.
- The extended battery life minimizes the lift trucks' downtime and allows two crews to work off of one charge.

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