

# Social Distancing Solutions



for Manufacturing & Food Processing Companies

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way many businesses operate, and manufacturing and food processing companies are no exception. These businesses will need to retool their operations in order to follow new government mandates. For some, this may mean adding guards to separate workers, but for others it may mean implementing new automation or reconfiguring plant layouts.

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#### Process to Process Conveyors

One of the fastest and easiest ways to add social distance between employees is to add conveyors between processes or workstations. In processes that require employees moving product between stations conveyors can be used instead of human operators. This not only maintains social distancing between operators, but also provides the operator more time at their workstation – thus increasing productivity.



### Pallet-Handling Conveyors for Robot / Cobot Applications

Some applications require operators to be in close proximity with one another. In these instances, it may be best to replace some or all of the various processes with robots or cobots. Pallet-handling conveyors move product between processes on a common workpiece pallet. The workpiece pallet has locating features which allow it to be precisely followed and located throughout the conveyor flow. This precise handling makes these conveyors ideal for use with robots and cobots.



### **Guards and Dividers**

In the event that social distancing simply cannot be achieved due to a variety of reasons; guards should be used to create a physical separation between workers. Constructed out of t-slot aluminum framing and featuring clear or smoked polycarbonate; guards can be designed to meet specific location and application needs. Guards can be freestanding or bolted to existing equipment.



### Accumulation Conveyors for Line Changes or Breakdowns

In the past workers would collaborate and closely work together to take care of line changes or repair conveyors or other equipment in the event of a breakdown. However, with social distancing this may not be feasible. Enter accumulation conveyors. Product can be stored on the accumulation conveyor allowing for a single worker to complete the necessary maintenance. Then once the work is complete the product can be fed back on to the conveyor.

mk North America, Inc. 105-125 Highland Park Dr Bloomfield, CT 06002 (860) 769-5500 info@mknorthamerica.com

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