

## **Herman Miller “Kills Two Birds with One Stone” by Installing Roll-Flex Rollers.**

Herman Miller, the nation’s second largest manufacturer of office furniture, with headquarters and wood working operations in Zeeland, Michigan finish all wood components prior to assembly on a flow through finish line. The last operation on the finish line is a 100 percent inspection of every part. This inspection takes place on a powered roller conveyer, where the rollers are covered with urethane to protect the finished conveyed parts. Parts ranging in size from 8”x10” drawer fronts to 4 feet wide by 10 feet long conference table tops, weighing well over 100 pounds.

While the urethane coverings on the rollers protected the finished parts, they greatly increased the effort required by the inspectors to position parts for required top as well as edge inspection of the parts in front of them. Engineers and Safety Representatives at Herman Miller recognized that some type of assist must be provided for the inspectors to avoid possible strains or injuries from repetitive forces.

Tom Bublitz, a Senior Manufacturing Engineer at Herman Miller, designed a pneumatically powered pop-up transfer system utilizing Roll-Flex multi-directional rollers that rise up between the uni-directional powered rollers when simply leaning against actuating knee bars located on either side of the conveyor. The inspector can now easily raise the pop-up and use both

hands for positioning and inspecting parts. The Roll-Flex multi-directional rollers permit the inspectors not only to move the parts across the conveyor, but to also rotate parts for more efficient inspection of the edges or opposite sides of the parts.

“The system has totally eliminated the need to lean across the conveyor for inspecting parts,” says Tom Bublitz. “Our inspectors love the system.”

Herman Miller has today three such multi-directional Roll-Flex systems at use in their finishing area and three more systems in their staining operations. “The Roll-Flex rollers are perfect for this application and have greatly contributed to the success of these systems,” concluded Tom.

