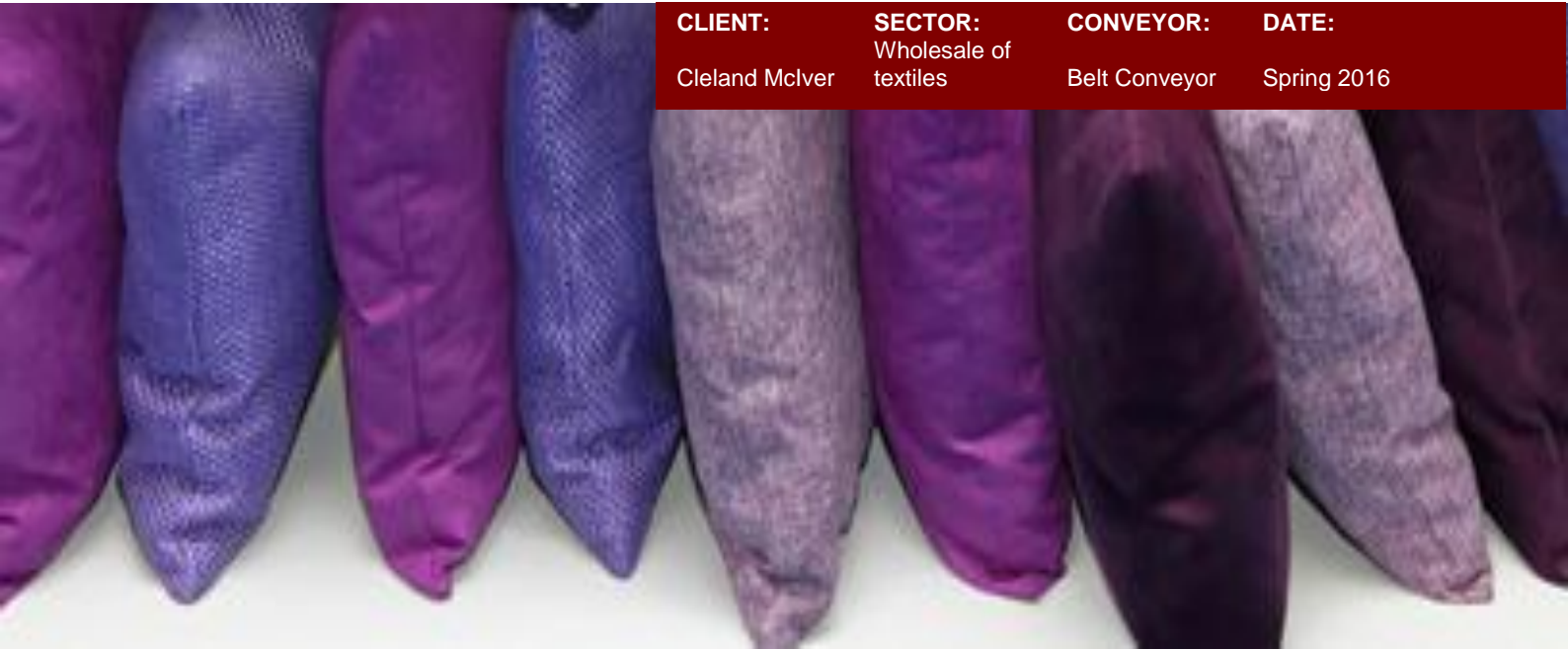




FM Nicholson (Materials Handling) Limited



CLIENT:	SECTOR:	CONVEYOR:	DATE:
Cleland Mclver	Wholesale of textiles	Belt Conveyor	Spring 2016

CLELAND MCIVER CASE STUDY

Conveyor system to carry cushions to the customer

Ever wondered how a furnishings giant like Dunelm manage to get all those cushions to their stores? FM Nicholson has helped one of its customers come up with a solution.

As a main distributor to soft furnishings giant, Dunelm, Cleland Mclver have been working with FM Nicholson for over a decade on a number of projects.

FM Nicholson have been supplying Cleland with a number of bespoke conveying systems for their factory in Littleborough, Rochdale since the business was created in 2003. They have provided a number of solutions to getting the textiles manufacturer moving and being more efficient as it supplies to the demands of its customers.

As well as conveyor systems, FM Nicholson have also provided Cleland with a number of fabrication solutions in its factory, which employs more than 150 people. Over a century of being in business, Cleland Mclver has built strong partnerships with mills in Europe and Asia to develop exclusive ranges of products for the ever changing UK market.

Paul Adams, Operations Manager at Cleland Mclver, said:

“Without doubt, working with FM Nicholson is very easy as they just understand our business. Whenever we need a solution to our conveying needs or an automated handling issue then FM Nicholson is first on our list of suppliers.”

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THE CHALLENGE:

As the main distributor for soft furnishings giant, Dunelm, Cleland Mclver are responsible for delivering quality products to a strict deadline for the house-hold brand.

Cleland has worked with FM Nicholson on a number of projects over the decade, each with its unique set of challenges – and this was no different.

Cleland needed a conveyor system which would be able to load cushions into 12 separate storage bays, all the same dimensions, until they were full, allowing the system to move on to the next storage unit. Before automation, all this had to be done by hand, using several operatives and taking up valuable man hours. Cleland wanted to have a unique HMI (human machine interface) so the system could cope with the volume of cushions at any one time and so they could be delivered to the customer efficiently and on deadline.



THE APPROACH:

Having worked in collaboration since 2003, the two businesses approached this project in a similar fashion to other challenges.

In-house designers at FM Nicholson worked on a unique conveying system which would allow the machine to select which storage unit to fill before it moved onto the next one, so it wouldn't necessarily have to go from 1 through to 12 in sequence. The sequential system was important in the approach to this particular project.

The conveyor system also cut down on the number of people involved in the operation, freeing them up to work on other projects. The system could be automated on a timer so could, in essence, be used around the clock. Once a storage unit was full it could be moved onto the next one without the need for human intervention.



THE RESULT:

Following testing at the customer's site and under an agreed schedule, the project was finished well-ahead of the proposal and it is now being used in production at the plant. The system worked efficiently from the moment the installation was complete and has continued to give Cleland an efficient service. The success of this project has led to more collaboration between FM Nicholson and its long-standing customer.

Clients Include:



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