



GM Holden

South Australia

With the closure of Holden's manufacturing capabilities in Australia, plans were set in motion to consolidate GM Holden's warehouse facilities. Dexion Solutions was engaged to work-in with the closure of the Adelaide Collision Distribution Centre (ACDC) in South Australia. This included the dismantle, modification and installation of all existing racking materials to create a new storage space in a nearby warehouse. All works were to comply with relevant Australian safety standards and local building codes, and to be completed within a 12 week window.

On Friday 20 October, 2017 Holden ceased operations at its manufacturing plant in Elizabeth, Adelaide. This signified the end of Holden's Australian manufacturing. The business would still maintain a storage facility in Adelaide to continue the distribution of Holden spare parts.

At this time, Holden's existing storage facility was to be shut down and all custom storage materials installed in this warehouse were to be dismantled, reworked and reused to create a new storage facility at Plant 7, an empty Holden warehouse just 1.6kms away.

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Project Considerations

As with any materials handling equipment project, there were a number of factors to be mindful of throughout the planning and execution of this project. For this Holden project, the main parameters included:

- Engineering the existing materials to be reconfigured for a warehouse with differing building grids and roof lines;
- Working in with other trades throughout general building upgrades, and;
- Unique building compliance requirements for WorkSafe South Australia.

Project Coordination

Due to the complexity of this project, planning was critical for its success.

In addition to the coordination, refurbishment and transport of all existing materials, general building upgrades were also underway at the facilities throughout the duration of the project to make good each premises.

This was managed with a staged handover, including weekly progress reports and meetings to ensure works remained on track and all parties were aware of the status of the project. Additionally, all working areas were clearly marked to isolate GM Holden's trades from Dexion Solutions' works at each stage.

Establishing clear communication from the beginning also played a significant part in the successful completion of this project. It resulted in a positive working relationship between Dexion Solutions project managers and GM Holden contract management team.

Design Engineering

The ACDC had three types of racking installed at the premises – Stillage Racking, Standard Selective Racking, as well as a unique Custom Racking System (referred to internally at Holden as Brokerage Racking).

The racking materials making up these three systems would be utilised for the new storage system at Plant 7. This meant the original storage system had to be re-engineered and redesigned to suit the new warehouse requirements.

As building grids and elevations differed in the second warehouse, there were many aspects for consideration for our designers. Materials had to be engineered to not only optimise the new storage space, but ensure that the new layout adhered to all appropriate safety standards.

A site survey conducted by the Dexion Solutions project management system, provided all adequate details, with the most significant design considerations being:

- Differing column grids
- Differing building elevations
- Sprinkler systems

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Safety and Building Compliance

Adhering to safety regulations throughout construction works is the foundation to every successful project. Each state has its own guidelines to be referenced and SafeWork South Australia has a number of unique requirements that differ to other areas of the country.

To proceed with the project, Dexion Solutions team had to be up-to-speed with all local regulations to ensure they met all legal and safety standards – including insurances, Work Cover, Elevating Work Platform (EWP) requirements, and additional safety procedures (e.g. crew to wear harnesses, etc.)

Successful completion

This project is an excellent example of project management and coordination between all parties involved. For a job where there are an extensive number of considerations, there are more opportunities for error. To ensure deadlines were met and the successful completion of works at both premises, each stage was carefully planned and clearly communicated to key stakeholders.