

What is "RIG Wedge" Costing You?

Loading docks with trailer-positioned restraints, such as Dok-Loks, are prone to deal with "RIG Wedge." This occurs when the trailer creeps forward during loading/unloading and the trailer's Rear Impact Guard (RIG) applies so much pressure to the restraint's hook that the restraint is unable to release the trailer. An employee must then go out and reverse the truck in order to release the RIG Wedge pressure.

The good news is there's now a solution for this. In June, Poweramp introduced the new UniLock Vehicle Restraint, an upgrade from the standard TPR restraint. With the UniLock's advanced internal cam design, it's the only trailer-positioned restraint on the market that can automatically release RIG Wedge pressure without the trailer having to reverse.

If you're considering installing new vehicle restraints at your loading dock, or replacing your existing restraints, let's evaluate your Return On Investment (ROI) to upgrade to the new UniLock from Poweramp's standard TPR restraint. The cost to purchase a UniLock over the TPR can vary, but is approximately an additional \$500.

Based on industry research, assume the average time it takes to resolve each RIG Wedge occurrence is 8 minutes and performed by a dock worker with employment costs of \$28.41/hour. Now determine how much RIG Wedge is costing you and what you could be saving:

Cost of UniLock Upgrade	# of RIG Wedge Occurances	2-year RIG Wedge Cost	2-year UniLock ROI	5-year RIG Wedge Cost	5-year UniLock ROI
\$500	1 / week	\$393.88	(\$106.12)	\$984.71	\$484.71
\$500	2 / week	\$787.77	\$287.77	\$1,969.41	\$1,469.41
\$500	3 / week	\$1,181.65	\$681.65	\$2,954.12	\$2,454.12
\$500	1 / day	\$1,969.41	\$1,469.41	\$4,923.53	\$4,423.53
\$500	2 / day	\$3,938.83	\$3,438.83	\$9,847.07	\$9,347.07
\$500	5 / day	\$9,847.07	\$9,347.07	\$24,617.67	\$24,117.67

**RIG Wedge Costs are based on average Dock Worker employment costs for a period of 8 minutes per RIG Wedge occurrence. Employment costs are averages sourced from PayScale, Glassdoor, Indeed, and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.*

While the life expectancy of a UniLock restraint is at least 10 years, it can be seen above that a positive ROI can already be realized within 5 years or even 2 years, depending on the frequency you experience RIG Wedge. And not only does the upgrade to the UniLock save you production costs over the life of the restraint, it can simply remove that inconvenience of always having to deal with reversing trailers to release RIG Wedge.

Lastly, from an expense perspective the UniLock can save you money, but it can also improve safety at the loading dock. If you service any trailers with obstructed Rear Impact Guards, such as intermodal trailers with cover plates, the UniLock has an internal safety mechanism that locks the hook in place when pressure is applied, maintaining a secure engagement even when the restraint's hook cannot be placed on top of the trailer's RIG.

So the decision should be obvious. RIG Wedge could cost you a lot of money and headaches, or you could upgrade to Poweramp's UniLock Vehicle Restraint and improve your loading dock productivity and safety.