



**R.A.RODRIGUEZ (UK) LTD.**



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### **COMPACT LINEAR CHAIN ACTUATOR PROVIDES PUSH AND PULL**

Good technical specification, an attractive price and sound application advice were the reasons why Birmingham-based Industrial Washing Machines (IWM) switched its allegiance to engineering component supplier, R. A. Rodriguez and its Framo Morat Linear Chain system. This actuator was selected to provide a robust and reliable push-pull mechanism for a system designed to wash and dry a wide range of plastic and metal bulk transport containers.



IWM is a family business that offers a full range of standard washing and sanitising systems to manufacturers across the industrialised world. A large proportion of the company's business however also comes from its ability to design and manufacture special purpose equipment to satisfy unique washing needs. Indeed, it was for a bespoke machine built to handle containers up to 1000mm x 1200mm x 1200mm that Framo Morat Linear Chains were specified.

The size these vessels require them to be loaded onto the machine's receiving station by fork lift truck whereby the first of the Framo linear chain actuators pushes the item – weighing up to 300kg - into the washing cabinet. Its counterpart at the other end of the machine is responsible for pulling the clean and dry vessel from the cabinet and onto a discharge platform, ready for unload by fork lift.

“This actuator offered the necessary strength to do the job and enabled the design to remain compact and relatively simple to control,” explained Managing Director Carl Hollier. “The chain and drive units are identical on the push/pull systems with the only difference being the grabbers we designed for the respective functions.”

For R. A. Rodriguez, the addition of the Framo Morat Linear Chain to its range has proved a popular choice for applications calling for long strokes where space is at a premium. The special profile of the chain with interlocking fingers at one end enables it to be rolled up for efficient storage in one direction and form a rigid thrust device in the other.

The device provides high positioning accuracy, constant stroke speed and shock-free motion, a vital ingredient for IWM as the smooth transfer of the container into a very precise rotating drum is crucial to the process. The compact nature of the actuator was also an important factor. As Carl Hollier concluded: “This allowed the machine footprint to remain compact and for us to use less material in its manufacture. The actuator certainly made an important contribution to the cost-efficiency of the project.”

**- ENDS -**

*R. A. Rodriguez has over 40 years experience in the supply of precision components to manufacturing industry in the UK, Ireland and Scandinavia. This ISO 9001:2000 company acts as factory representative for a number of the world's leading component designers and manufacturers. Its product programme falls into five divisions – bearings, linear motion, aerospace, conveyor equipment, gears and associated products. R. A. Rodriguez bearing products include the world-renowned Kaydon Reali-Slim® and Ultra-Slim® designs. In the linear motion field, R. A. Rodriguez supplies a range of solutions from components and sub-assemblies through to complete turnkey systems.*

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