

Handling Specialty, awarded Guinness World Record *Engineered-to-Order Company Holds Record for Largest Underwater Stage Hydraulic Lift*

(GRIMSBY, ONTARIO October 23, 2000) -- Handling Specialty is proud to announce that it has become a Guinness World Record holder. The company received its record for the underwater stage lifts that it created for the Cirque du Soleil show at the Bellagio Casino Resort Theater in Las Vegas, Nevada. As systems integrator for the theater's stage, Handling Specialty's challenge was to design, manufacture and install a lifting system that could be raised and lowered in a pool containing 1.5 million gallons of water. This stage lift system is the first of its kind in the world.

What makes this particular stage lift system so remarkable is not only its ability to operate underwater, but also the sheer magnitude of the system. The theater's stage measures 3,650 square feet and is divided into four sections that are supported by Handling Specialty's automated lift systems. Each lift system raises one of the stage floor sections 17 feet through a pool which contains 1.5 million gallons of water. A lift speed of 20 feet per minute is attained through the use of a hydraulic power unit with over 1,000 horsepower. Also contributing to the lift rate are the 40,000 holes incorporated into the stage floor which allow the water to quickly escape through the moving stage. The lift systems consist of 563,000 pounds of steel, 6,000 feet of welding and took 4,320 hours to manufacture.



According to Dennis Parass, president of Handling Specialty, the Guinness World Record is just another indication of his company's world-class capabilities. "Handling Specialty is clearly a leader when it comes to engineered-to-order lifting applications. Where other companies may do some custom work in addition to their standard product lines, engineered-to-order is our company's primary focus. Projects such as the Bellagio stage lifts really provide us with an opportunity to demonstrate our engineering and manufacturing expertise."

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To learn more about Handling Specialty please contact:

Mary Haurilak, Marketing

Tel: 905.945.9661 ext. 264

Email: mhaurilak@handling.com

Or visit our website at www.handling.com

About Handling Specialty Manufacturing Ltd.:

Handling Specialty is one of the world's most pre-eminent custom designers and manufacturers of material handling solutions since 1963. The company's reputation is one of a competent problem-solver because it has built a strong history of providing unique, custom-engineered solutions. This ability to solve problems has allowed Handling Specialty to achieve success in many sectors including rail/transportation, automotive, aerospace, entertainment and metal processing industries. Handling Specialty is located in Grimsby, Ontario with a second plant located in Hamilton. The company is registered ISO2008-9001.