

4. RACKING AND SHELVING

4.1 The Market

Racking and shelving is used in a variety of industry segments but particularly by the chemical, paint and oil, paper, printing and publishing, retail and wholesale warehouses.

The retail and wholesale market for racking and shelving is growing at an estimated 7% per annum with the current market estimated at A\$80m. Shelving (gondola and wall mounted) accounts for almost 80% of the total market.

The major Australian companies supplying racking are:

- Metro
- Dexion
- Brownbuilt
- Boral Cyclone
- Acrow
- Unistrut
- Colby Handling System
- Handy Angle

The major suppliers of shelving are:

- Metro
- Trollope, Silverwood & Beck
- Kingfisher
- U-Rect-It
- Shopfitting of Australia

In Australia most warehouse operators do not perceive the need for automated systems which involve the use of racking conveyors or sophisticated systems - in many cases they perceive such equipment as increasing costs and reducing the percentage of useful warehouse space. In Japan and elsewhere the ascendancy of automated systems can be largely explained by local factors such as the lack of land and associated costs of construction.

In Australia the use of traditional narrow aisle racking, with reach and deep reach vehicles, has been found to be more efficient than automated systems. Nevertheless there remains a place for fully and semi-automatic systems in applications for the motor parts, hardware, cold storage and other industries having specialised requirements.