



ELECOMPACK

CASE STUDY

Canadian Broadcast Corp.
Toronto, Canada



When the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) decided to consolidate its 26 locations into a central Toronto location, many problems presented themselves. It became evident that the space available for media storage would be at a premium. The CBC needed a system that would provide maximum utilization of the space allocated to storage.

The ultimate scope of the project would include 55,000 lineal feet of shelving in 11 rooms with many different formats of media, including books, files, audio recordings, video recordings, film cans, sheet music scores and even wigs.

"The technology is changing so rapidly," notes CBC Architect Brian Larmour, "It's impossible to predict what formats we're going to be using in the future..." The other side of the coin is that there's a vast amount of existing technology. In broadcasting, multiple generations tend to co-exist. There are demands to store new formats and there are requirements to store all manner of archival materials- some of them quite rare and valuable.

For these reasons the CBC required a mobile shelving system that was capable of maximum flexibility, offered the best structural integrity and included "state of the art" safety features for user protection.

When the problem of storing some 60,000 film cans arose, Elecompack offered a unique solution. This system had been developed in conjunction with Paramount Pictures in Los Angeles, California.



Elecompack allows film cans of various thickness to be housed together in individual compartments that are adjustable vertically without tools, maximizing space utilization and providing better air circulation.

The strength of the product that the CBC required was driven by the sizes of some of the mobile ranges and the weights of the materials to be stored. In some cases several ranges 39 feet long, weighing 30,000 lbs each would be moved at the same time.

"After having extensively evaluated the products available in the marketplace, Mr. Larmour emphasized "We decided it was better to go with a stronger product. User safety became a significant factor in the decision."

The possibility of an individual climbing the shelving and causing it to tip, or of being injured when a 30,000 lb. mobile range closed on her/him unexpectedly, made the CBC consider structural overhead anti-tipping systems, as well as automatic passive aisle locking. The overhead system, originally designed to meet strict Japanese seismic codes was incorporated.

A passive aisle security system was incorporated into every access aisle of the system. Its activation is totally passive and engages automatically as a result of a user turning the hand crank to open the desired aisle. User safety was assured. Below is a sample of the systems used by the CBC for a variety of materials.

