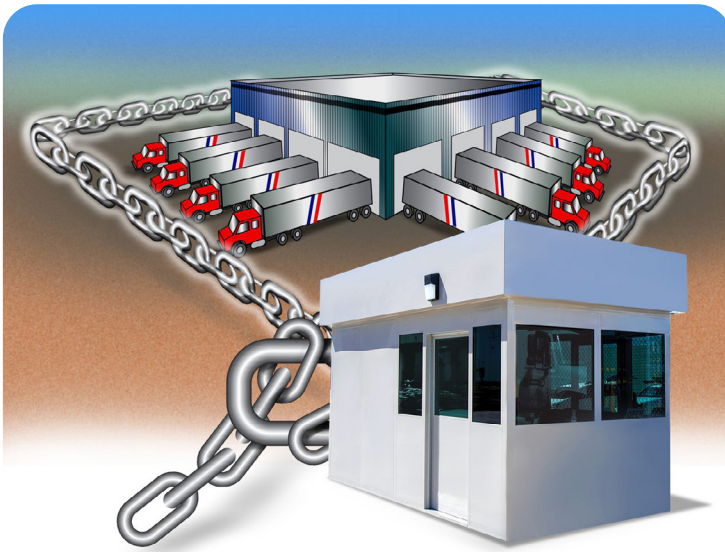


# The front gate problem: How guard booth design impacts distribution center security and logistics



Security risks in distribution centers often involve third-party access, perimeter gaps, and unmonitored activity during high-volume deliveries. But another issue shows up at the front gate—one that directly impacts operational efficiency: traffic flow.

Every truck, visitor, and delivery funnels through a single checkpoint. When it works, operations run efficiently. When it doesn't, backups build quickly—sometimes spilling onto surrounding roadways.

*"The guard booth is often treated as a secondary structure, but it's a critical control point for both security and traffic flow,"* said Dave King, VP of Sales at B.I.G. Enterprises.

A well-designed booth strengthens control without slowing the movement of trucks, people, and materials. That balance is where many facilities fall short—and where B.I.G. takes a different approach.

Booth placement and layout are engineered around real-world use. Positioned in the center lane, with sliding doors on both sides, the design allows guards to move quickly between inbound and outbound traffic, supporting continuous flow.

## Where Projects Go Off Track

Problems often begin when the booth is treated as a commodity or addressed too late in the design process.

Oversights can be simple—but costly. The distance to the nearest restroom, for example, can require significant plumbing if not planned early.

*"We've done this long enough to know what works—and what doesn't,"* said Jeff Crooymans. *"We guide customers to the right solution upfront, so they don't run into problems later."*

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## BUILT FOR WHAT'S NEXT: B.I.G. ENTERPRISES JOINS VITALSPACE

As demand grows across distribution, data centers, and high-security environments, the need for smarter, more adaptable guard booth solutions continues to expand.

B.I.G. Enterprises was recently acquired by VITALSpace, a leader in modular innovation. B.I.G. will continue operating under its established brand and leadership while leveraging the VITALSpace platform to accelerate innovation, expand capacity, and support long-term growth in the custom guard booth market.

*"This expansion builds on a year of strong momentum,"* noted Mike Smith, CEO of VITALSpace. Over the past year, VITALSpace companies have expanded production capabilities, strengthened partnerships, and increased demand across justice, industrial, and healthcare markets.

VP of Sales Dave King noted that B.I.G. Enterprises has led the industry's evolution—from parking lots to perimeter security and from energy and government facilities to distribution centers and now data centers. A new B.I.G. plant

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## Designing for Real-World Performance

At high-volume facilities, durability isn't theoretical—it's constant. Doors and transaction windows are the primary moving parts, used continuously throughout the day. B.I.G.'s heavy-duty hardware and cycle testing ensure reliable performance.

*"If a door isn't working, trucks aren't moving," King said. "And when trucks stop, everything stops."*

Design also adapts to real-world conditions. In harsh weather, features like transaction drawers and overhangs allow guards to interact with drivers without disrupting flow. Comfort matters because uncomfortable guards are less effective. HVAC systems are sized for the environment, and insulation and durable flooring reduce fatigue during long shifts.

Ultimately, the guard booth sits at the intersection of security, operations, and performance. Designed as part of the system—not an afterthought—it supports control at the gate while keeping everything moving.

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will be opening this Spring in Georgia to meet growing demand.

Jeff Crooymans shared his excitement about joining VITALSpace: *"For 18 years, I've been with the company my grandfather built and my uncle has grown. Now my family's business is part of something much bigger. Our legacy and leadership will continue."*

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