

Skidding of a steam drum and skidding and lifting of 8 boiler modules at a paper factory, Portugal



ALE has completed the skidding of a steam drum, weighing 45t, and the skidding and lifting of 8 boiler modules, weighing 50t each, at a paper factory in Figueira da Foz, Portugal.

Due to the narrow space within the building, ALE needed to design a bespoke solution that would still enable them to operate with the high degree of accuracy the operation required.

First, the steam drum was discharged onto a skidding system, which protruded out of the building, 30m above the ground. ALE then skidded it 12m into the building.

Next, ALE began the installation of the 8 boiler modules. The modules were unloaded one by one onto the skidding system, which protruded out of the building, 11m above the ground. The first module was skidded into the building, where it was turned by 90° to position it on top of the lifting system. ALE then hoisted the module into position and these manoeuvres were repeated with the second module placed under the first one. They were then welded before being lifted up. This process was repeated for the third module. The remaining 5 modules were skidded and then lifted one by one, with a maximum lifting height of 30m above the initial height.

The reduced space and limited time available for the operation posed a major challenge, but the expert skills of ALE's engineers enabled them to create the best possible solution and ensure each lift was performed in a single day.

Project:	Skidding of a steam drum and skidding and lifting of 8 boiler modules at a paper factory, Portugal
Location:	Figueira da Foz, Portugal
Equipment:	Skidding system; SLS700 lifting units
Weights:	45t steam drum, 50t boiler modules
Key Features:	Bespoke solution; minimised disruption