

Case Study

PharmLog: inconso WMS X

Strict requirements with pharmaceutical industry

Customer Profile

PharmLog Pharma Logistik GmbH was founded in the nineties by six pharmaceutical companies that bundled their logistics activities into their own service provider. From its distribution center in Bönen in Westphalia, PharmLog realizes sustained efficiency and cost potential for its current manufacturers Bayer Vital, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, Meda Pharma, Merck, and Novartis Pharma.

The Project

At the site in Bönen, PharmLog operates an automated high bay warehouse with 30,000 pallet positions. Next to it is the shipping hall with a parcel sorter, a Put by Voice area, and two two-story halls with three large picking areas: original box picking with RF and weighing technology, partial picking in the refrigerated warehouse and the normal temperature area. At the same time, the company also operates a vault warehouse and a dangerous goods warehouse. Parallel to the IT replacement, inconsoWMS X was implemented as the warehouse management and control system.

Project goals

The objective of the logistics company is the timely shipping of 7,000 orders with about 1.5 million packaging units per day that are received from more than 20 clients. This

also involves complying with German pharmaceutical laws and international regulations. In addition, there are features such as the day-end closing.

The solution

The heart of these very complex logistic processes is inconsoWMS X. Thanks to its comprehensive experience and inconsoWMS X's proven focus on complex, highly automated warehouses, the inconso team was able to overcome the challenges presented by the extensive, multifaceted conveyor technology and the numerous warehouse and picking areas with different, partly competing strategies and processes. The number of orders, order positions, and picking units that may be transferred at given timeframes have been agreed upon with each client. The warehouse management system monitors allocations and sorts the orders by their transfer date. For the so-called day-end closing, all orders for this day must have been processed. In the morning, all orders must be transferred to the picking areas and in the afternoon, a decision needs to be made as to which orders can still be processed without risking under-utilization of individual areas or jeopardizing a successful day-end closing. To do this, each of the independently operating picking areas has its own monitor, whose activities are consolidated and controlled by the higher order material flow monitor. Even production processes such as manufacturing or built-to-order that are integrated in the WMS are controlled and monitored.



PharmLog is subject to the German and international pharmaceutical rules and regulations. Correct shipping, comprehensive inventory and batch security, and shipping according to the FEFO principle are irrefutable matters of course. This can include inventory changes, access to pharmaceutical blocked goods and the maintenance and management of the product and batch master data. The highest level is the four-eye principle,

which means that a second user has to confirm a booking with their user name and password. inconsoWMS X was validated according to the regulations of the Pharmaceutical Operation Ordinance. To verify that the system reaches its full capacity at any time, the individual system modules were checked for completeness during the acceptance tests. During the ensuing validation, the test plans for system functionality created by PharmLog were carried out and the results extensively documented. Testing with actual goods was done as preparation for productive operations. On three weekends, the output was increased from a few orders with few positions to about 70 percent of the participating clients' orders. The seal of approval from quality assurance also corresponded to excellent performance: From day one after its implementation, the system operated at full capacity.

At a glance

Customer

PharmLog Pharma Logistik GmbH

Project goals

Integration of new services
Increasing the flexibility of services
Fulfillment of all pharmaceutical requirements

Products and solutions

inconsoWMS X
RFID
Pick-by-Voice processes
RF
Forklift control system
Transport control system

Main benefits for the customer

Future-proof, high performance system
Monitoring of goods processing
Customer and service specific invoicing

“Despite the complex challenges:
From day one after its implementation,
the system operated at full capacity.”

Hans-Peter Meid,
Managing Director of PharmLog Pharma Logistik GmbH

