

Case Study

dm-drogerie markt: inconso WMS X

High performance through modern Information technology

Customer profile

dm-drogerie markt GmbH & Co. KG is one of the largest drugstore chains in Europe with 2,500 stores in Europe. The ca. 1,3000 stores in Germany with their 25,500 employees generate approximately two-thirds of the company revenue of more than Euro 6 billion.

The project

In the newly constructed distribution center in Weilerswist, the tasks from the previous distribution centers in Meckenheim and Weilerswist have been consolidated. Early on in the planning of the logistics solutions to be used, inconsoWMS X played an important role - this was important considering the ca. two million postings to be completed per day. The new DC Weilerswist is one of the most important locations in the logistics network of dm-drogerie markt. The stores with their small volume orders are delivered from this location.

Requirements

In order to supply the ever-increasing store network reliably and on time and to ensure that the employees in the stores can stock the shelves as easily as possible - that is the central challenge of dm logistics. To fulfill these quality requirements continuously, the highest performance, transparency and flexibility are mandatory prerequisites. This task was approached by dm by striving to have easily understood structures and processes, like Joachim Lück, coordinator of the dm distribution centers, emphasized: "Designing clear and easy processes is our never-ending goal!"

The solution

All received pallets - ca. 2,800 per day - are put onto the conveyor technology directly after unloading from the transports, recorded via scanning and checked eventually for issues at the I-Points.

The system sends the pallets based on the load on of the three large, connected areas: If the cartons should be picked as a whole, then they are moved normally directly into the carton distribution center in the same building area. If the load contains goods for the piece picking, then the pallets are either directly transported in the hall to the store-in preparation (ELAV) or stored temporarily in the high bay warehouse. The destination is the small parts distribution center directly connected to the ELAV.

As similar as the rack layouts are, the picking technology used is varied. In the small parts DC, Pick-by-Light system in the carton distribution center, an electro-monorail is used with its caddies is used as high developed picking mobile unit combining easy operations with the highest efficiency. Altogether, 255 of these caddies are continuously in movement. They access over 5,000 picking locations on three levels with 13,000 overhead buffer locations that are used for replenishment. The caddies each transport a picking pallet on an integrated scale. Several of the automatically controlled pick mobile units are simultaneously underway in each aisle.



The heart of the monorail is the integrated industry PC whose screen shows all the information in an easy overview and with clearly understandable color support. Completed picked pallets are driven directly to the wrapper for transport security and to the goods issue where the shipments are consolidated for the stores.

For highly efficient work in the piece picking, all goods must all be stored in such a way as to be accessible in the small parts DC. This important work step is assigned its own hall at dm, namely the store-in preparation (ELAV). Here, the pallets are broken down, the cartons cut open and put onto trays. In addition, mixed pallets and decorative cosmetic articles are repacked individually in warehouse containers.

The pick-by-light system in the piece picking is directly controlled by inconsoWMS X. This is also valid for the scale technology used that recognize immediately deviations in the picking tasks. The completed picked totes are buffered until they are to be consolidated to the single store pallets for the shipping. The completed full carton pallets are secured in the wrapper for the transport.

Ca. 2,500 pallets leave the distribution center each day; the maximum performance is set up to handle the growth strategy of dm for the coming years.;
- it is reached at 3,000 pallets.

At a glance

Customer

dm-drogerie markt GmbH & Co. KG

Project goals

Implementation of inconsoWMS X;
Streamlined processes;
Freely configurable strategies for receiving and shipping

Products and solutions

inconsoWMS X, Pick-by-Light and RF

Main benefits for customer

Productivity increase
Complex, manual and automated processes are managed under one system.

“Today, we can rely on a stable and productive system in Weilerswist.”

Joachim Lück
Coordinator of the distribution centers at bei dm-drogerie markt