

BLG Logistics Centre for the Kitchen Industry at Melle



The BLG Logistics Group stands for international networks in the automobile, contract and container logistics business areas. The group of companies employs more than 15,000 persons at 90 locations. This includes 2000 employees at 14 trade logistics centres where BLG offers customised planning and control of complex logistics processes, combined with management of all goods and information flows.

At Melle in Lower Saxony, BLG Trade Logistics operates a 27,000 m² supplier logistics centre for the kitchen industry. This centre has 18 gates and a 185 m long siding track with space for 11 wagons.

Here BLG stores "white goods" such as electric stoves, refrigerators and dishwashers for well-known manufacturers of kitchen appliances. The appliances are delivered just-in-time to the production centres of several regional kitchen manufacturers.

BLG implemented *PSIwms* - the Warehouse Management System - to meet the new requirements at the Melle Centre in a more flexible manner. The ability to largely configure the *PSIwms* themselves was a decisive criterion for BLG when choosing the new software developer. The Melle Centre is a pilot project for BLG and is path-breaking for integration at

other locations; which is why BLG put together a comprehensive project team. The BLG team started with the configuration of the *PSIwms* already during the project phase. The commissioning with the transfer of old stocks including bin-specific counting was accomplished within 3 days with no transition.

Special features at the Melle LC

The suppliers are owners of the goods until they are sold to customers, i.e. BLG merely manages the goods. The *PSIwms* includes functions for reconciliation of orders from customers and releases by suppliers, so that the ownership transition is documented. This requires a variety of interfaces both to the supplier and the customer. *PSIwms* processes supplier article numbers without any problem. High process security is guaranteed at the Melle LC with TU-precise warehousing without legible TU numbers. Identification of goods in *PSIwms* is done with the article number and the storage bin. Various putaway rules can be defined in *PSIwms* by taking into consideration article groups, load carriers, article characteristics and bin properties. BLG has defined a list of over 400 putaway rules. A virtual loading area planning already implemented by *PSIwms* in the order summary ensures that the loading area is utilised optimum by the approx. 25 outgoing trucks daily. The appliances are moved to the trucks in an optimal manner with the help of a walking floor technology in the sequence specified by the customer. Shipment inspection is

carried out for quality assurance. The EAN codes on the appliances are scanned and promptly activate the printing of the corresponding labels based on the order and print data sent by the customer. The generated labels are affixed on the goods. In special cases, *PSIwms* adds its own labels. The service provided by BLG is recorded in specific billing data.

Other features:

- Various sorting algorithms for picking lists
- Printing of user manuals in the respective language variant
- JIT deliveries in specified sequence

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