

Drinks logistics for Danone Waters – Spedition Reiner Bohnen, Duisburg



Elmpt-based Spedition Reiner Bohnen GmbH & Co. KG is a medium-sized, owner-operated logistics service provider. At the Duisburg inland port, the company operates a logistics centre for Danone Waters comprising a 30,000 m² large hall and office complex. This centre manages the filling, storage and distribution of Evian and Volvic crates. Every day a 600 m long freight train with mineral water bottles from the French source locations Volvic and Evian is unloaded, packed and distributed from Duisburg to the wholesale and retail markets in North Germany.

The PSIwms, including the integrated Transport Control System (stacker control system) is responsible for controlling the operational processes and the management of the warehouse and the Yard Management System. Spedition Bohnen handles the complete warehousing for Danone – from train unloading to washing crates, picking and packing up to truck loading. The central components of this process are the automated “crating system” and the PSIwms configured to the complex logistics processes.

Increased flexibility through add-on modules

The Transport Control System ensures optimum transport control during order processing. System modules for the yard and resource management assist with the planning and traffic control across the 30 truck parking spaces at the logistics centre. These modules together guarantee the Fefo (First expired – first out) principle in the warehouse and, in addition to connecting the crating system and repacking system, enable continuous batch tracking up to the consignee. In addition, stock consistency with the Danone System and subsequently increased transparency is achieved with the SAP interface.

Sophisticated logistics processes

The PSI*wms* receives the orders from SAP and from this generates operational processes and around 15,000 orders with 75,000 order lines per year. First the stacker receives the transport orders from the Transport Control System for unloading the railway wagon. After transferring the unloaded goods to the goods receipt, comparing the notice data and collection, the pallets are transferred onto the haulage track to the automatic crating plant. In the plant, the pallets are automatically depalletised, the film from the six-packs is removed, the bottles are picked up by robot arms and moved to the empty crates.

The filled drink crates are then palletised and the pallets are marked with barcodes. In these processes, PSI*wms* already matches the notice data and the order data for the production orders. Stackers accept the pallets at the end of the plant and store them first in the bulk warehouse according to the PSI*wms* specifications.

The required empty crates are delivered to the logistics centre in a truck. After recording the quantities and collecting the crates, first the empties are cleared by removing the PET empties and processing them into balls in a pressing plant. Then the crates pass through a washing plant and are immediately refilled in the crating plant.

For the order processing, the PSI*wms* starts the picking of the made-to-order pallets from the bulk warehouse. The stackers receive the corresponding orders from the Transport Control System via radio on the display, pick the drink pallets and place them in the goods issue for shipping. Together with the Yard Management, the Transport Control System supports the high service level that Bohnen agreed upon with Danone.

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