

ESSELTE LEITZ: Central Warehouse Germany and Europe



Esselte Leitz is one of the leading providers of office and organiser supplies in Europe. Its central warehouse in Heilbronn supplies 2,500 stationers and key accounts with products from Esselte companies like Dymo and Curtis. The European market is supplied from the central warehouse and from branch offices in the various countries.

Approximately 6,000 different products (including colour variants) that are made in Stuttgart and at five other plants are stored at the central high-bay warehouse in 32,000 storage positions.

The warehouse receives goods continuously and its high handling capacity ensures it can supply customers even during peak times.

The central warehouse performs the tasks of decentralised branch warehouses and offers high cost-saving potentials whilst maintaining the same delivery availability. The demands placed on the warehouse are correspondingly high:

- Continuous placement of goods in storage
- delivery to customers within 24 hours after receipt of order
- Transshipment-point compatible supplying and loading at short-notice
- Automatic and variable merging of orders for the same transshipment points
- Automatic or freely selectable configuration of packages

*6,000 different
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The project tasks

Customer orders are taken at the order processing centre and are assigned to transshipment-point-oriented transports. The order data are transferred continuously over a dedicated line to the warehouse management system. Here they are processed into picking orders or intact palette outputs that are volume and weight optimised. The resulting transport units are made available and loaded in the goods-out area in the correct sequence according to the scheduled lorry tours.

Transport units are generally foil-wrapped EURO palettes containing articles of one type as well as mixed-order and mixed-article palettes from the various picking zones.

All domestic customer orders arriving at Heilbronn in the early afternoon are processed the same day and reach the customer the next day. The warehouse operates in two and three shifts, which allows a peak handling performance of over 28,000 order items a day – this corresponds to a movement of around 30,000 items of merchandise.

28,000 order items
processed a day

Functionality

- Goods receipt with automatic palette registration by scanner
- Automatic loading of lorries
- Material flow control and monitoring of the automatic high-bay warehouse and its 9 aisles
- Picking management system on 3 levels with stock replenishment control system for 5 track-guided replenishment units.

- Forklift control system for the transportation of palettes
- Radio data controlled picking
- Merging of transport orders sorted according to transshipment points and shipping destinations
- Transshipment-point-oriented order management and formation of transport units
- "Person-to-goods" and "Goods-to-person" picking optimised according to volume, weight and route
- Interactively controlled packing shop with 10 packing stations and associated shipping control
- Transshipment-point-oriented shipping control of the transport units with printing of all the consignment's accompanying documentation as well as customer delivery notes
- Permanent stocktaking
- Differentiated requirements information
- Administration history
- Loading checking system
- Packing that fulfils the needs of key accounts
- Scheduling of outdoor warehouse as a reserve warehouse and picking warehouse
- Integrated export system including the preparation of export papers

The PSI Logistics system runs on a 64-bit OPEN-VMS cluster system from HP.

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