



+ Intralogistics

Alfred Kärcher SE & Co. KG

Alfred Kärcher SE & Co. KG relies on our warehouse management system PSIwms to optimize storage and picking processes according to product-specific strategies in the central logistics center in Obersontheim, Germany. The efficiency of order picking has considerably increased since its realization in 2012.

The challenge

Over 71,000 spare parts and more than 6,000 accessories are stored in the central logistics center in Obersontheim, Germany. From there, the cleaning equipment manufacturer supplies its worldwide customers and more than 120 companies with spare parts and accessories. The order execution of such a diverse product range requires special

Information



Industry: Mechanical engineering, manufacturer of cleaning equipment and systems

Warehouse location: Obersontheim, Germany

Employees: over 13,000 employees worldwide in more than 120 companies

Turnover: more than €2 billion

Deployed software: PSIwms

Year of implementation: 2012

Realized interfaces:

- + ERP system (SAP)
- + Shipping system
- + Material flow computer/material flow system
- + Pick-by-voice system
- + Order picking system

+ Reference

“ Thought-through material flows, state-of-the-art automation systems and an intelligent warehouse management system – with the new logistics center we wanted to improve our previous order picking performance of 750 order items per hour to 1,500 items.

Roland Fahrmeier, Head of Logistics Management at Kärcher | implementation period 7/2012

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efficiency from internal logistics. However, both the storage capacities and the connected logistics processes could no longer keep up with the company's growth. As a result, the company worked with an external consultancy firm to develop a new warehouse concept. In addition to site consolidation, the solution modules also included the introduction of modern process automation and order picking based on the "goods-to-man" principle, and the implementation of a new warehouse management system to control and manage processes.

The solution

The old high-bay warehouse with 8,000 storage spaces is used today as a replenishment warehouse. In 2012, a fully automated, five-aisle high-bay warehouse with 15,400 pallet spaces as well as an eight-aisle, automatic small parts warehouse with 85,000 container storage locations was created. A block warehouse with capacities for 6,500 storage locations is used for the order picking of medium-sized articles from pallets and mesh boxes. A wide-aisle warehouse with 6,200 pallet spaces and an order picking system with 130 storage spaces are available for fast-moving items. Another special feature is the two-aisle, shuttle-operated consolidation buffer with 5,400 container storage locations where all containerizable order items are merged.

The inventory management and administration as well as the control of the complex storage and order processes are completely handled by PSIWms. This includes, e.g., the determination of storage areas and locations as well as the transport unit, the calculation of storage routes and processes or the transmission of work orders to the device controls – in an order-optimized manner. To ensure quality and increase the picking performance in order picking, pick-by-voice and pick-by-light technology are also integrated.

Particularly in order picking, the coordination capacity and efficiency of the system becomes apparent: up to 17,000 order items are picked per day in the spare parts warehouse – ideally, all items are ready for dispatch within 2 hours. Thus, currently, up to 5,000 parcels a day can leave the logistics center – a number that even exceeds the original targets.

Fact Sheet

Users:

- + 120

Language:

- + German

Warehouse characteristics:

- + 2 high-bay warehouses with 8,000 storage places and 15,400 pallet spaces
- + eight-aisle automatic small parts warehouse with 85,000 container storage locations
- + block warehouse with 6,500 storage locations
- + wide-aisle warehouse with 6,200 pallet spaces
- + order picking system with 130 storage spaces
- + two-aisle, shuttle-operated consolidation buffer with 5,400 container storage locations

PSIWms functions in use:

- + Cockpit
- + Archive
- + Event management
- + Double-/multi-deep storage
- + Dangerous goods
- + Hazardous substances
- + Weight control
- + Handling units management ("TE to TE")
- + Empties and loading aids
- + Expiry dates
- + Package optimization (case calculation)
- + Serial number
- + Stacker control system + mobile order processing



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