



Boosting Order Processing

Technical Wholesale

Vihamij, based in the Netherlands, is a wholesaler of building materials which can be ordered via their online shop or directly bought in one of their 37 stores across the country. As business increased significantly, the company opted for an LR 35 Vertical Buffer Module solution from Kardex Remstar to deal with higher order throughput.

Benefits at a glance:

- Substantially increased order processing, 300 order lines/h/person
- Reduction of travel time
- Reduction of personnel from 6 to 2,5

Customer

Vihamij is a technical wholesale company providing next day delivery of building materials to direct customers or to their own retail stores across the country. In the company's central warehouse they stock approximately 10.000 different articles so fast delivery to customers is vital.

Task Definition

Vihamij found that peak time order levels became normal workload and they needed to speed up operations to cope with growing business. Therefore, they had to increase order processing significantly. Factors contributing to this were cutting down on long travel times by too many personnel and consolidating storage locations for easier and faster access. In addition they needed to create a clear structure for picking affiliate and customer orders and replenishing in between.

Solution



A customized solution based on standard elements was formulated by Vihamij and Kardex Remstar: 3 LR 35 Vertical Buffer Modules each featuring a turntable and LED pointer. As storage space had to be significantly increased to condense articles from different storage locations in one place, the roof of the warehouse was extended to install units of maximum height, twelve meters each. In front of the units, 30 picking bins on put locations with put-to-light technology were installed. The whole batch picking process is controlled by Power Pick Global software and a fixed color is assigned to each LR 35 unit. To prevent picking and putting errors, the display of the LR 35 indicates the same color as on the put to light displays. This also reduces travel times. Where 6-7 operators were used before, the new solution needs only 1 picker and 1 person preparing orders. First, 1000-1500 order lines for affiliates are picked, then follows replenishment, finally 50-100 customer orders are fulfilled, in total an average 300 order lines per hour per person.

Scope of Delivery

- 3 LR 35 Vertical Buffer Modules, each equipped with LED pointer
L: 10,470 mm, W: 2,350 mm, H: 12,000 mm
- Power Pick Global Warehouse Management Software with continous batching and pick by and put-to-light features
- Put to light table: 3 sections of 2.2m with a total of 30 put locations, 2 levels of 15 each



Further Information

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