



New picking warehouse at Straumann

Complete solution realised in the shortest of time



Today, it only takes 10 minutes to train a new employee to work with the pick-by-light technology.
Stefan Schies,
Logistic Manager at
Straumann

As a reaction to the rapid sales growth of the last years, dental implant manufacturer Straumann GmbH in Freiburg had to optimise its internal logistics processes. In just a few months, order picking and the handling of returns were converted from the classical system with picking lists to a modern automated order picking system.

Next to the pick-by-light system with about 500 shelf displays, five zone displays, one major display as well as the material flow computer, new live storage and efficient conveyor technology today ensure not only high picking performance but also highly flexible use of human resources as well as more efficient storage of returns.

High picking performance

Until May of 2008, the staff still had to cope with the deluge of work "on foot" with picking lists. More than 1500 orders with an average of 3.6 items have to be processed daily, 1.4 million parts in all per year with a product range of 1200 high tech products.

Nowadays, fewer pickers are required thanks to the pick-by-light system. The team can by now also focus on additional tasks such as the quality management system and customer service (e.g. set-up and maintenance of a customer hotline) along with order picking and packing.

Completion of deliveries within minutes

The material flow computer receives orders directly from the SAP inventory control system. It optimises the order sequence for every shipping recipient based on the delivery priority stored in the warehouse management system and thus enables order processing within a few minutes after the receipt of order.

More freedom in human resource planning

Every expansion previously required increasing the human resource base and seasonal fluctuation could be absorbed only with difficulty. Initial training lasted several weeks due to the high degree of specialised knowledge. Today, it only takes 10 minutes to train a new employee to work with the pick-by-light technology.

Easier storage of returns

A 10 % rate of returns is normal in this line of business, but also a lot of work. The pick-by-light system facilitates this with a simple storage procedure. In this operating mode, the corresponding shelf display lights up after an item to be stored has been scanned, and then points the employee towards the right shelf. After storage and confirmation with the acknowledgement button, the item is entered in the warehouse management system.

Your contacts at KBS:

Michael Weiser Tel. +49 (0)761 / 45 255 -50
Michael Wolf Tel. +49 (0)761 / 45 255 -52

www.kbs-gmbh.de

KBS Industrietechnik GmbH **KBS**
Burkheimer Strasse 10
79111 Freiburg, Germany
Telefon +49 (0)761 45 25 5 -0
Telefax +49 (0)761 45 25 5 -90