



Pick by Light drastically shortens training period at MAN

Faster by swiping rather than pushing

Until 2009, work in a Munich MAN Group "parts supermarket", one of the leading commercial vehicle manufacturers in Europe, was performed exclusively with paper lists.

Employees had to have an extremely good knowledge of the individual items in the entire warehouse, which generally took several months. Furthermore, errors, which only became apparent at a later date, could not always be avoided.

In response to this, MAN decided on a light-controlled picking solution, which supports the personnel through clear guidance.

Spared movement

In addition to the classic benefits of Pick by Light, the selected module PickTerm QuickReply has an integrated sub-miniature switch and an elongated and elastic activation lever for rapid confirmation of the orders.

This so-called "swipe activator" spares the operation of additional confirmation buttons on the shelf display and thereby improves pick performance: the spring-mounted lever is "swiped" by the picker during removal of the article.

Two employees simultaneously

Up to two employees work in the "parts supermarket" at the same time. This meant that a colour

differentiation of the light signals was required. Of the seven possible colours available at KBS, MAN selected red and green. In the event of removal in the same shelf the light flashes in the colour of the pick order released first.

Changes in the weekly cycles

The design of the system is adapted and improved on an almost weekly basis at MAN. The so-called "snap-in adaptation" of the system allows the PbL modules to be snapped to any place on the support profiles installed on the shelves in fixed positions. The individual shelf displays in the database are linked to the item number and not with the shelf positions. This allows the user to quickly place the display elements to another position, if necessary, cost-effectively without external help.

Benefits overview

- Flawless picking
- 10% productivity increase
- Investment quickly redeemed
- Training time of only 30 minutes



For us change is a matter of course. The new Pick by Light system can be quickly and easily reconfigured or extended by the Group Leader.
 Franz Blaschke,
 Individual responsible in the driver's cab assembly



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