

Order Picking and W/M System

West Midlands – United Kingdom

WOLSELEY CENTERS

Axiom in full control, warehouse management system works hand in hand with conveyor system

- ü Fully integrated warehouse management and conveyor control systems
- ü Goods In and put away
- ü Stock management
- ü Order picking
- ü Bulk picking
- ü Dispatch/Shipping
- ü Check weigh systems
- ü Automatic volumetrics/carrier labelling



Case Study

Unifix are the second largest supplier of building materials, fixings, tools and power tools to the UK building trade. Supplying next day delivery to sites has allowed Unifix to grow to a scale where their current manual picking methods could not support next day delivery when receiving orders as late as 6.00 p.m. A solution that would speed up the picking process allowing later order placement and courier collections and provide scope for the anticipated company growth was required.

Axiom was awarded with the £0.5m contract to supply a complete picking solution, together with flow racking, carton erection machines, carton sealing machines and check weighing. As a late addition to the project Axiom was awarded the order for the warehouse management system. This was centered on incorporating the use of RF hand held scanners, thus eliminating the need for a paper base warehousing operation and improving accuracy within the system.

The system interfaces with Unifix's AS400, receiving goods-in information, static part files and order information. Warehouse operatives are, via the use of a hand held RF scanner, able to locate received stock, carry out location audits, relocate stock, carry out inventory counts, pick stock, etc.

Each order received is automatically cartonised using volumetric software, into a range of cartons or totes. Larger orders are bulk picked directly from the bulk storage areas. Cartons are launched on the conveyor system where the carton/order details are checked to ensure the order details match the expected carton size. A courier shipping label is automatically applied to the side of the carton.

The cartons travel round the conveyor system, visiting each zone as required by internally controlled routing data. Cartons that cannot visit a zone will re-circulate around the system until the zone is clear. Upon arrival at the picking zone the user scans the delivery note within the carton; this information automatically instructs the picker to collect stock from any one of the flow rack picking locations within their working zone.

Once all items have been picked the carton is pushed back onto the main conveyor, where it will travel out of the picking loop over a dynamic check weigh station, checking for both weight errors and known picking shortages. The check weigh operator has a terminal to update carton problems and if necessary re-launch the carton for picking. Correct cartons travel through a packing station where they are void filled. Their final destination is to either a manual packing area, or to a final palletising position where they are loaded onto a waiting courier's container.