



Fragrance Distributor Uses Horizontal Carousels to Speed Order Processing Time

Features and Benefits

Orders Ship Within 24 – 48 Hours

Slow Movers Are Picked By One Person From One Zone

Carousels Provide Quick & Easy Access To Product

Industry Group: Automated Storage/Retrieval Systems (ASRS)



The system provides more capacity and better labor efficiencies.

Handling 4,900 SKUs and shipping over 3,000 orders per day, distribution methods for a major fragrance company had changed from full-case shipping to retail distribution centers to split-case picking of individual orders for shipment either directly to stores or to retailer distribution centers. “Our strategy is to be able to quickly fill every item in a customer order,” says the VP of logistics, “but we would typically pick the slow movers from our finished goods warehouse. If we had 18 fast movers and only one slow mover to pick the order would be set aside until someone went to the warehouse to find the slow mover, delaying the order.”

The fragrance distributor installed one workstation consisting of two 65-ft long horizontal carousels to handle the slow moving items. In addition to the flexibility they provide, “the carousels allow us to put a lot of stock in a very small footprint, we have 700 – 900 SKUs in them at any given time,” says the VP. “A single worker can pick these products from the carousels so we save on our workforce and we can access these products much easier than we used to.” The carousel workstation averages 100 – 150 orders per shift at an average rate of 37 – 56 lines per hour.

In the pick-and-pass process now implemented the carousels are third in the picking sequence. Eight containers can be staged at the carousel station

where scanning a container label initiates carousel activity to present the location of the assigned pick. Indicator lights identify the carousel shelf and pick quantity on the carousel, while put lights below the containers indicate which order is to receive the picked items.

When the order has been picked a “complete” signal is illuminated at the carousel workstation that indicates the container can be moved to the takeaway conveyor. The container rejoins other orders traveling to check weights, audit stations or other value added stations where special labeling, company literature or seasonal stickers are added to the shipping container.

“The system gives us a lot more capacity and provides us with better labor efficiencies,” the VP continues. “In the past, it took us two to four days to process an order. Now 90-plus percent go out within 24 – 48 hours.”

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