



Briggs & Stratton expedites move to new facility and improves throughput 10 percent through use of slotting application

Features and Benefits

Producer of air-cooled engines for outdoor power equipment

Moving to a new facility while continuing to fulfill orders

Selected dynamic pick-face slotting solution

Expedited the staged movement of inventory

Improved facility throughput at least 10 percent

Enabled RF-directed put-away to ensure inventory accuracy

SCE solution provider: RedPrairie Corporation

Industry Group: Supply Chain Execution Systems & Technologies Group

Briggs & Stratton is a large producer of air-cooled gasoline engines for outdoor power equipment. They design, manufacture, market and service these engines for original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) worldwide. Briggs & Stratton engines are incorporated into products as diverse as lawnmowers, race cars, farm equipment, generators, pressure washers, pumps and welders, as well as many other industrial and commercial applications.

The Challenge

In the span of three years Briggs & Stratton's replacement parts business exploded from about 35,000 SKUs to over 105,000 SKUs due to growth and new product lines. As a result, they decided to develop a new purpose-built 300,000 square foot distribution center in Menomonee Falls, WI (MFDC) for their replacement parts packaging and distribution business.

A major challenge was moving a complex packaging and distribution operation that ships over 22 million parts annually while continuing to fulfill orders. Briggs & Stratton decided on a staged approach in which portions of the operation were moved at a time. Order fulfillment gradually migrated with the parts and equipment, with production going on in both facilities simultaneously over several months. This required the new slotting plan to accommodate both the staged inventory move and on-going production efficiency in the new MFDC.

Successful Slotting Solution

Briggs & Stratton implemented a dynamic pick-face slotting application that would integrate with their existing Workforce Management (WFM) system. The slotting plan was designed to cover all case and piece-pick areas, as well as fixed bin configurations. The integrated solution with 3D mapping enabled the Slotting application to accurately predict

movement and travel times within the new facility, thus creating the most efficient plan possible.

The key to creating an efficient slotting plan and operation is to understand the product line and how employees are picking it. The preferred methods within the WFM helped to define that. In addition, it was important to design the proper bin structure and have an accurate part material master. Briggs reported that when business needs dictate a shift in percentages of fixed versus random bins, the slotting system can handle it.

In order to better support their large dealer network, as well as significant online orders, Briggs & Stratton pledges that all orders received by 2:00 pm on a normal workday will be shipped by 8:00 pm the same day. This necessitates efficient, well-planned operations.

The efficient workflow design and material handling automation at the new MFDC put a premium on proper slotting of parts and packaged goods. The integrated WFM and slotting solutions minimize effort and travel distances. This speeds fulfillment operations while reducing costs. Briggs & Stratton reported that slotting makes distribution operations more efficient, increases throughput and safety, and is easy to use.



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