

Reference Information

Gordon Food Service adds viastore systems AS/RS to provide the automated inbound material handling system for its new Distribution Center in Shepherdsville, Kentucky

Scope of Supply

Storage/Retrieval Machines

- Mechanical/Electrical aisle hardware
- Load/Unload stations
- High Speed Transfer Cars
- Material Flow Control (MFC) Software with visualization
- Portable wireless PDA system interface
- Interface to host WMS

Functional Description

- AS/RS approximate size:
Length: 490 ft. (150.8 m)
Width: 300 ft. (92.3 m)
Height: 98 ft. (30.2 m)
- (9) **viapal** S/R machines, each equipped with a double deep shuttle with chain transfer
- System Configuration

Dry Grocery – 4 Aisles with 27,930 Storage Locations

Cool Grocery - 2 Aisles with 9020 Storage Locations

Freezer - 3 Aisles with 23,724 Storage Locations
- Product stored: Food Service products for dry, cool and frozen storage.
- Storage is on GMA and CHEP 48 inch X 40 inch Pallets with 4 Pallet heights from 36 inches to 84 inches.
- Maximum capacity per pallet: 2500 lb.



Customer Profile

Gordon Food Service founded in 1897, is North America's largest family-owned and managed broad line foodservice distributor. Gordon Food Service is a multi-billion-dollar international corporation offering more than 15,000 GFS and nationally branded, specialty and exclusive products to over 30,000 customers in 10 states within the United States and throughout Canada. The company also operates over 100 GFS Marketplace retail stores. For more information, visit the company's website at www.gfs.com.

System Solution

viastore systems provided the AS/RS for the inbound side of the new distribution center. The outbound side is a pick to belt conveyor system from pick tunnels in the rack. There is also a sortation system for order sorting and consolidation and trailer loading conveyor system. The entire system has been designed to provide a very efficient, highly reliable process to efficiently fill orders for Gordon Food Service customers.

Two of the unique innovations provided by **viastore systems** are automatic bin sensing located on the S/R machines eliminating the need for hard wired sensors in the pick locations for replenishment. And chain transfers located on the lift carriage to improve shuttle cycle time by eliminating the shuttle extension at the P & D stations.

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The MFC controls the in bound transportation system including high speed transfer cars feeding the P & D stations. It also optimizes the material flow and crane movement. Statistical history is maintained to provide information for further system optimization. There is a graphical user visibility display providing the operator with visibility to the system for system status and diagnostics.

The Result

The system provides Gordon Food Service with a highly reliable automated Distribution Center that has provide much higher throughput then previous designs.



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