

Autopart International (API) renovated an existing warehouse in Norton, MA near their current facilities. The activities of 4 API warehouses were migrated into the renovated facility. The intent of the project was to distribute auto and truck parts as well as accessories from the warehouse to sites throughout the US. The renovated warehouse supported API's new design growth goal of approximately 50 stores per year.

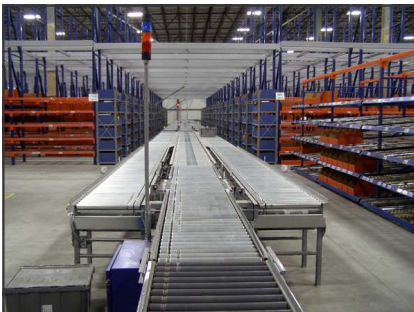
Abel Womack designed and installed conveyor and storage systems which enabled API to effectively manage and store parts inventory, prepare customer orders efficiently and ensure same day shipping.

Energy efficient "green" technology systems were a priority for this project. The voice directed picking software, for instance, allowed the distribution center to go paperless. Another "green" initiative improved the comfort and efficiency of the staff. After Abel Womack performed a simulation and slotting analysis, conveyor was installed near the top SKU movers which allowed workers to stay at their station while performing their tasks.

There are non-conveyable items in the warehouse that have to be hand picked. Packing stations were installed to check for accuracy and pack up the shipments. Most items are shipped in the pick totes and then recycled. This shipping method reduced the need for corrugated packaging, resulting in cost savings and environmentally sound practices.

Other project highlights include:

- 80% of the totes/orders are shipped via the company delivery vehicles.
- New conveyors transport cartons, totes, storage racks, shelving and accessories.
- New controls and RadioBeacon warehouse control software.
- Straightforward design of pick path, zone routing and SKU locations reduced training needed for new staff members.
- Energy efficient equipment such as Raymond lift trucks, Hytrol conveyors, an Automotion shipping sorter and automatic zone transfers.



Zone Transfer



Conveyors & High Bay Storage



Shipping Recirculation

Project Key Features:

Challenge

- To distribute from the warehouse to sites throughout the US.
- Energy efficient "green" technology systems.

Abel Womack Solution

- Installed voice directed picking software, conveyor and storage systems.

Benefits

- Environmentally sound practices.
- Effectively manage and store inventory, prepare customer orders efficiently and ensure same day shipping.

Building Size: 300,000 SF

Inventory: 30,000 Active SKU's
100,000 Total SKU's



Shipping Sortation