


LFS 400

 Warehouse Management by E+P

**Beverage wholesaler Heurich
counts on the innovative
Warehouse Management System LFS 400
for the beverage industry**

LFS 400



EHRHARDT+PARTNER

**Software Systems
for Warehouse Logistics**

Refreshingly efficient – Heurich counts on the LFS 400

Through the application of the LFS 400, the beverage wholesaler Heurich realises a significant higher efficiency and increases the transparency of its central warehouse. Besides this, the wholesaler fulfils all requirements of the EU regulation 178/2002 like for instance the complete tracing of batches. The implementation of the system was realised during the three-shift-business without an interruption of processes.

“The prime goal for the integration of the new warehouse-management-system was fulfilling the requirements of the EU regulation 178/2002. Through the new warehouse management, we also wanted to increase the transparency and the productivity of our warehouse”, Berthold Kress, logistics manager with Heurich describes the task for the project. From the central warehouse on Petersberg near Fulda, the company supplies 150 Heurich-beverage special retailers, 90 Logo beverage special retailers as well as the retailers of the company Tegut and a high number of gastronomic objects with refreshments, beer, wine and spirituous beverages. The beverage wholesaler belongs to the most innovative companies in the industry. This becomes clear, for example, as Heurich was one of the first wholesalers who introduced the completely automatic empties-sortation-machine that can sort all usual boxes and control the entire empties receipt by tours.

Selection of suppliers

Heurich per day handles about 80,000 beverage boxes. As almost 80 per cent of the good are picked, for the wholesaler, the use of a paperless picking technique was very important next to the integration of high-performance software. Essential for the choice of E+P was above all the funded experience within the beverage industry as well as the existing interface with the goods-economics-system Dogas of the supplier Copa. The installation of the warehouse-management-system was realised within a few months and without an interruption of the three-shift-business.

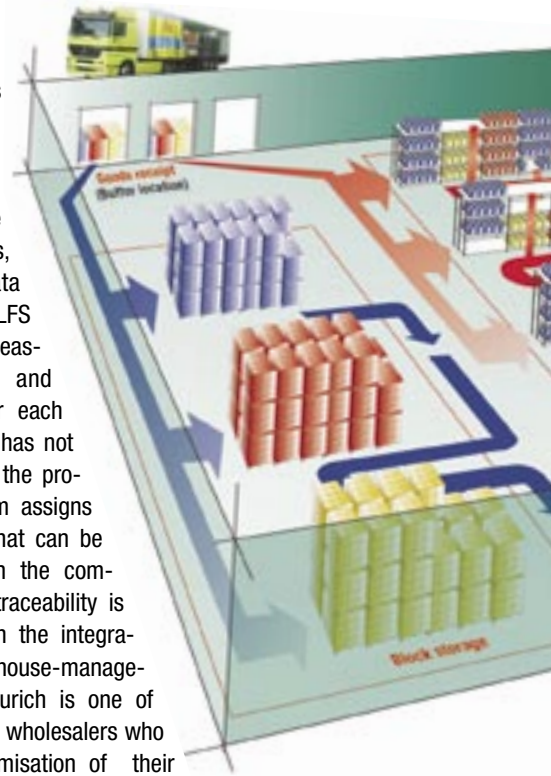
The execution of projects

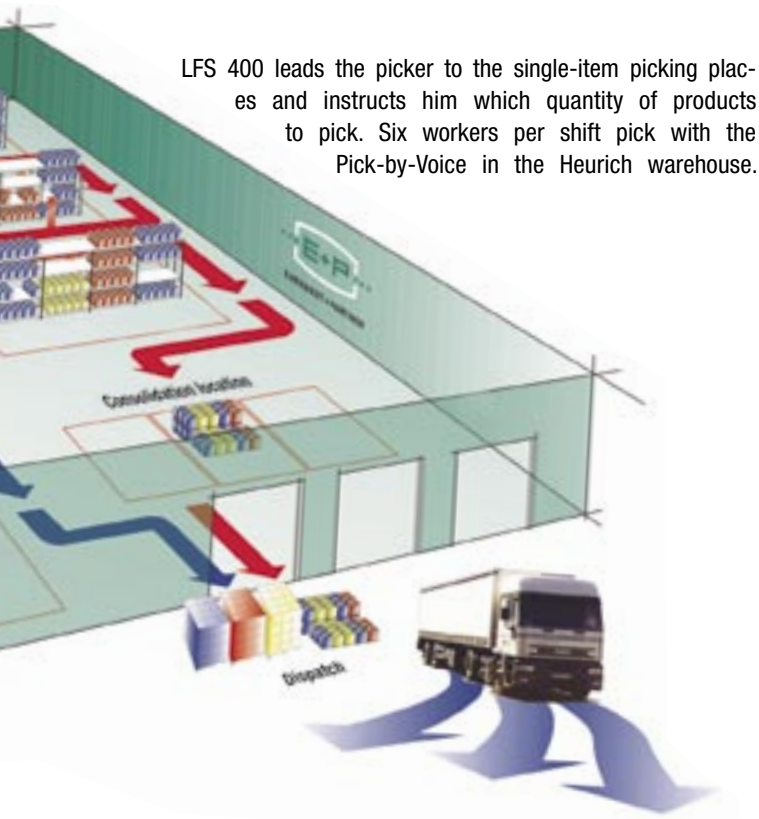
Since October 2004, the storing processes in the central warehouse are executed as follows: LFS 400 registers all the incoming deliver-

ies in the goods receipt. The pallets labelled by the producer or the supplier are scanned. By this, the relevant data is read by the LFS 400 and can be easily transferred and administered. For each loading unit that has not been labelled by the producer, the system assigns a proper SSCC that can be carried on within the company and the retraceability is guaranteed. “With the integration of our warehouse-management-system, Heurich is one of the first beverage wholesalers who realised the optimisation of their warehouse processes as well as the retracing of batches before the implementation of the EU regulation of January 1st 2005”, says Marco Ehrhardt, one of the managing associates of E+P. After the dynamic storing-place-allocation, the LFS 400 guides the fork lift driver on the optimal route to the corresponding storage location. The driving orders for relocation and release are coordinated by the software in the transport leading system (TLS). By this, the different criteria like the route distance and the priority of the orders are considered. Through the TLS-function, Heurich has remarkably minimised the number of deadheads of his fork lifters and realises a significant saving of time and costs through the optimisation of routes.

Pick-by-Voice

Heurich uses the new picking technique Pick-by-Voice in their warehouse. One essential advantage of this technology is that the picker can use both hands freely and unrestrainedly. The worker wears the equipment on a belt and can communicate with the warehouse-management-system on the AS/400 (IBM Series) via an attached headset.





LFS 400 leads the picker to the single-item picking places and instructs him which quantity of products to pick. Six workers per shift pick with the Pick-by-Voice in the Heurich warehouse.

“Through the use of the Pick-by-Voice, we have already utilised the highest possible optimisation potential”, says the manager of logistics, Mr. Kress. “One pick means to us the movement of one complete beverage box. With a performance of in average 3,700 picks per shift, our employees reach their physical maximum.” Apart from the increased productivity, Heurich also profits from a higher picking quality. In the separated warehouse, the wholesaler also picks wines and spirituous beverages with Pick-by-Voice. Also in the significant smaller warehouse section, Heurich realises the simplified handling and the higher performance.

Optimised warehouse processes

LFS 400 controls next to the picking also the replenishment of goods. As soon as a pallet-picking location is vacant, the LFS 400 causes the replenishment in connection with the TLS. In the entire

process of putaway, relocation and dispatch, the replenishing transports were given a higher priority. By this, the pickers do not have any waiting times, although the replenishment is only caused if a pallet is complete vacant. By this, Heurich saves the complex transfer of the remaining boxes that would take place in an early replenishment order. Further optimisations are realised by Heurich through the efficient handling of partial pallet quantities that are for instance created by returns from the fixed bin business. LFS 400 let flow these into the picking process with the highest priority, by this avoids the accumulation of remaining stock and clearly improves the occupancy of storing places. If one pallet is full or the order is completed, the commissioner stores it at a buffer location. LFS 400 automatically prints a SSCC label that is attached to the pallet by the picker. While the worker directly continues the order or approaches a new one, the TLS directs a fork lift driver to load these picked goods and take them to the requested consolidation place in the goods dispatch zone. Through the division of tasks between the pickers and the fork lift drivers, Heurich also realises a significant saving of time within the processes next to a big transparency.

System-guided release and loading

The entire process of release is also effected by the system and with that on the optimal routes: from the consolidation place in the goods dispatch zone, the fork lift drivers load the picked pallets on the trucks according to the routes planned by Dogas. The non-picked full pallets are extracted by the drivers from the bulk warehouse or the direct warehouse in the goods dispatch zone. Next to the beverages, Heurich also delivers several promotion items to their clients. Those are stored by Heurich in the separate warehouse for publicity goods. LFS 400 also here directs the picking of the service articles creates the SSCC label and orders the supply of promotion-merchandise on the consolidation places according to the tours. In order to make sure that all positions are loaded on the truck, each pallet is scanned individually. LFS 400 only unblocks the tour when all the deliveries are complete. The current process status can be monitored permanently in the warehouse management. This way, the permanent transparency of processes in the warehouse is guaranteed.



Results in an overview

In total, Heurich realises the following results with the LFS 400 and Pick-by-Voice:

- Through the use of the LFS 400, Heurich fulfils all the requirements of the EU regulation 178/2002.
- By the real-time-booking, the wholesaler disposes of an extremely efficient control of availability and an enormous transparency. Heurich increases their security of disposition and reaches an availability of 100%.
- By the use of Pick-by-Voice, Heurich realises a higher efficiency by a double-digit percentage and improves the picking quality.
- The TLS allows the wholesaler within the entire warehouse process a significant saving of time and a higher transparency of processes. This is above all realised by avoiding deadheads.
- The good administration system Dogas by the supplier Copa could be attached to the LFS via the already existing standard interface.

Figures, data, facts

Heurich beverage special retailers	150
Logo beverage special retailers	90
Central warehouse	Petersburg near Fulda
Distribution area	150 km around Fulda
Total warehouse surface	15,000 square meters
Warehouse capacity	17,000 pallets
Warehouse areas	Block warehouse 8,000 pallets
Gravity roller rack warehouse	4,500 pallets
Picking location warehouse	1,300 pallets
Outside bulk warehouse	1,200 pallets
Consolidation and loading places	2,000 pallets
Handling per shift	80,000 beverage boxes
Picking percentage	80 %
Warehouse workers	45
Client selection	Tegut, Rewe, Kaufland, Edeka
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