


LFS 400

 Warehouse Management by E+P

Freshness logistician Cefrusa:

**Three logistics centres –
one warehouse management system**

LFS 400



EHRHARDT+PARTNER

**Software Systems
for Warehouse Logistics**

Freshness logistician Cefrusa counts on the LFS 400

The Spanish logistics service provider Cefrusa administers about 150 clients in three cooling chamber headquarters with the aid of the warehouse management system LFS 400 by E+P through one central IBM-system iSeries (AS/400). New clients can be registered independently by the Cefrusa employees in the warehouse management system. Another significant characteristic of the project is the two-step picking with the aid of an integrated horizontal roll distributor.

Cefrusa wants to offer even more quality and enhanced reaction times to his clients, therefore the management decided to modernise the warehouse management system. "We decided on favour of the LFS 400, as it is a flexible solution and we can adapt the software to our clients", Cefrusa CEO Jordi Gonzalez reports. In Spain, he continues, the situation was that the logistics service providers could only expect little flexibility from their clients.

"This means for us that for example in consideration of the transmission of order- or production information, we have to be perfectly adapted to the clients. The LFS 400 gives us this opportunity - for every single of the about 150 clients who are currently being administered by the system", Jordi Gonzalez emphasizes.



Besides the flexibility of the programme and the possibility of independently registering new clients, also the comprehensive data banks of the system and the option of the integration of the data flux between the three headquarters Hostalet's (Barcelona), Mercabarna (Barcelona) and Madrid played a decisive role with the choice of the

software. This way the client's goods today can, for example, be stored in several warehouses. His master data is only entered once, as it can be called from every headquarter. "Of course, in competition it is always an advantage offering the client more functions than the competitors", CEO Gonzalez rejoices.

Thanks to all these advantages, Cefrusa decided after intensive research against the systems of renowned suppliers from the USA and Spain and in favour of the E+P solutions.

Special characteristics of the freshness logistics

Cefrusa is specialised in clients of the food industry. The logistics service provider stores at a temperature of 3 degrees Celsius or with minus 20 degrees mainly meat, seafood, fish, pizza and pasta. With fish and seafood the goods receipt must not only register the quantity, but also the total weight of the pallet. After the receipt through one of the gates equipped with temperature locks, each delivery is provided with a label and a barcode. The barcode on the low-temperature-suitable special etiquette is registered and continued in the system with further product data like for instance the batch

number and the expiration dates.

By means of the barcode label, Cefrusa can guarantee their clients a complete tracing of the batches. With this, the company meets all requirements of the EU-regulation 178/2002. In the near future, the process of good receipt for major customers shall be automated. That means that hauling agencies are assigned per EDI-interface to the LFS 400 and then use etiquettes with the barcode EAN128. Those etiquettes are

scanned in the goods receipt and all product data of the incoming delivery is registered and automatically collected. Already reality is a web service for clients with the aid of which they can inquire the stock of goods and the status of their orders in real-time from the LFS 400.

Picking

The picking is realised in two steps. At first, the orders are combined according to tours. While picking, the articles are debited from stock in real-time within the LFS 400 while the commissioner extracts the goods from the lowest of the five floors of the high-rack-warehouse. For this step of picking, in future the innovative Pick-by-Voice technology will be applied. The commissioners can use both hands freely while picking, as they neither have to carry lists nor terminals for the mobile data registration (MDRs).



Especially in the low temperature section, where the warehouse employees wear special clothing and gloves that complicate the handling of lists and data radio terminals, the Pick-by-Voice is an inestimable advantage. With Cefrusa, the workers carry a low temperature-suitable picking unit on their belt and communicate with the LFS 400 on the IBM iSeries per an attached headset. "Until now, we could usually reduce the picking speed by a double-digit value in every warehouse where the LFS 400 was used in combination with the Pick-by-Voice.", Hermann Ehrhardt, founder of E+P. explains.



Automatic precise picking

After the general picking, the pallet carrying the total quantity of an article for the tour is precisely picked in the cooling chamber. With the aid of the horizontal roll distributor in the divert-operation, the pre-picked goods are divided into up to 48 orders. Each order is combined into one container at the end of the transportation passage. Above the container, a light signal indicates in streetlight colours which orders have already been completely picked. The technical connection of the distributor to the LFS 400 has been developed and implemented by the Cefrusa employees themselves. For that, it was necessary to make some phone calls to the project director of the Informática y Gestiones Logísticas (IGL), the Spanish subsidiary of the E+P GmbH.

As the horizontal roll distributor works with an enormously high speed (4,500 articles per hour), also pre-picked goods frozen at minus 20 degrees from the 6,200 pallet cooling chamber can be precisely picked in the three degrees warm environment without interrupting the cold chain. This is due to the fact that the speed of picking lets the goods keep their temperature constantly.



If the container is full or the order completed, the corresponding container is provided with an etiquette which contains the number of the dispatch unit (DU) and the client's address and is afterwards transported back into the cooling chamber. There, the goods are stored ready for dispatch. During the loading, the barcode of the single containers is scanned. This way it is documented which orders have already been proceeded and the quantities loaded per container are transferred to the client's delivery note. This scanning process in addition activates the automatic transfer and the notification of the data per EDIFACT-interface to the consignee or the client.

Results in an overview



Through LFS 400, Cefrusa has obtained the following results:

- Through the use of data radio, the logistics service provider has optimised the picking processes by 15 to 20 per cent. Picking errors and time-intensive final controls are avoided.
- With the multiple-client-suitable warehouse management system LFS 400, Cefrusa can easily administer an unlimited number of clients – currently that are about 150.
- Furthermore, the LFS 400 takes care that all goods are picked according to the expiration dates.
- LFS 400 makes all the processes in the warehouse transparent. Information is transferred to the system in real-time and detailed information can be called to every movement of goods. This was, the warehouse control centre has a better overview and a higher security in planning.
- Besides that, the entered data is standardised. By that, a higher discipline in the handling of the system is created. The uniformity of the working processes allows a headquarter-spanning assignment of the warehouse employees.
- LFS 400 allows a higher flexibility and a quicker adaptation to new client requests. Cefrusa can now map new clients independently in the system – without additional programming by E+P.
- As three logistics centres operate with the same system, all centres have the same operating figures, which significantly simplifies the control of the employees' performance.



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