

Warehouse management system LFS 400

Quality assurance as prior standard

The Theodor Kattus GmbH uses the warehouse management system LFS 400 for the tracing of batches.



Through the use of the industry-independent warehouse management system LFS 400, the Theodor Kattus GmbH elevates their quality assurance significantly: the possibility of goods blocking for quality control and the traceability of batches in both directions – both to the customer and the supplier – guarantees the highest security possible for the consumer.

More than 700 pallets of goods leave the distribution centre of the Theodor Kattus GmbH in Ratingen every day. As the leading enterprise for brand products for international specialties and ethnic foods, the company supplies more than 10,000 sales locations in Germany. The assortment is separated into the brands KATTUS, Bamboo Garden, Fuego, Lacroix und Milerb and comprehends more than 600 items that are bought by more than 100 suppliers of more than 35 countries.

Project volume

In order to secure a complete tracing of batches in both directions, a quality control of the incoming goods as well as an accurate stock management with this diversity of products and suppliers, the company planned to use a warehouse management system. Via warehouse management, the new system was supposed to manage, supervise and administer the warehouse departments of goods receiving, bulk storage, packing area, high-bay warehouse, display production and loading area. In total, the current storage capacity is 8,000 pallet bin locations: 3,600 in the high-bay warehouse and another 4,400 in bulk storage. Both warehouse sections only contain full- and broken pallets, while there are only packing units in the picking warehouse and only customer units in the broken pallet warehouse. In average, 300 full pallets come in and almost 600 orders are picked per day. In the seasonal peaks, those values can almost double. "An important precondition with the assignment of this project was the option of voucherless picking



Always up-to-date: thanks to batch tracing, Kattus always knows both the origin and the destination of the goods.

with the resulting stock accuracy", says Carla Galster, business system manager with Kattus. "Our old, paper-based picking caused errors and with that required enormous capacities of personnel for the final control." Therefore, a new system should save personnel resources, guarantee an easy communication with the existing Host system

and an easy connection to radio frequency. In November, Kattus concluded the contract with the company group Ehrhardt + Partner, whose warehouse management system LFS 400 is leading in innovations and the market of modularly designed warehouse management systems. Decisive for placing the order was above all the high coverage degree



Goods dispatch: disposition of ready-to-ship packages

of the required functions by existing software modules.

Project requirements

Already three months after placing the order, the acceptance of the specification was realised; and after four more months, the new system went into operation as planned in July. A special characteristic of this warehouse system is the production of the customer-specified



Picking with radio frequency

displays: customers of the delicacies supplier order this promotion display with individual item equipment. Therefore, an employee picks the ordered items of the

variable display and prints the detailed display production list after picking. After the display production, the packed promotion display is again put away into the warehouse. If the entire order contains further cardboard goods next to the display, both can be picked together on a correspondingly big transporter.

In order to optimise dispatch, LFS 400 calculates the optimal shipping handling unit and loading and combines the different orders for the same customer. Here, the software considers individual dispatch criterions of the consignee and the selected forwarder. This pre-calculation of the shipping handling unit allows distributing several orders into several shipping units and with that the simultaneous processing by different pickers.

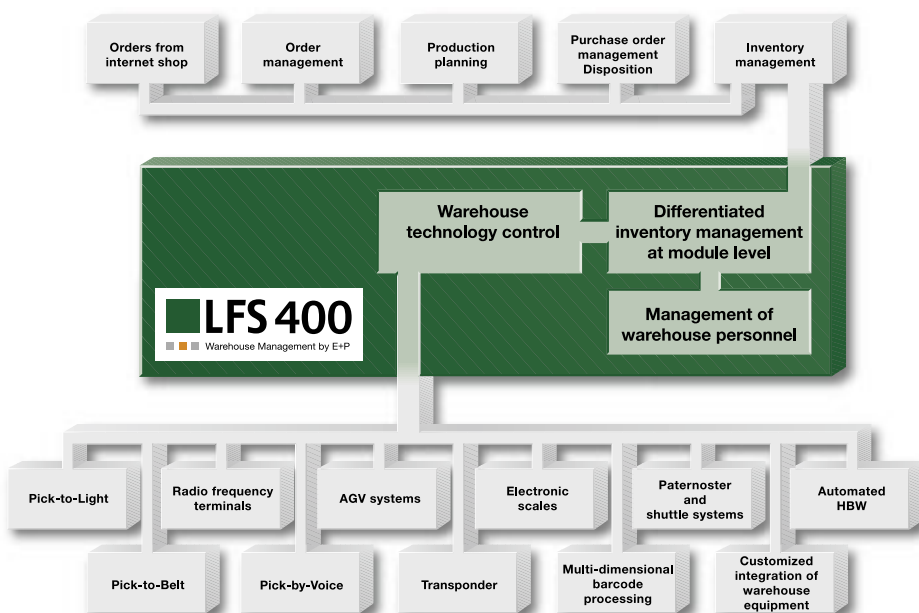
Results

With the incoming of goods, the controllers take one packing unit from one item per batch for quality control. In order to guarantee a 100 % security for the final consumer, the goods of this batch to be put away are blocked until the end of the quality control and a final unblocking by the quality management.

Next to the management and administration of best before dates, the software displays origin, composition, location and also the destination of the goods at any time. "With this complete tracing of batches we respect our responsibility as a distributor of foods", says Helmut Geiger, manager of the Theodor Kattus

GmbH. "Furthermore, stock insecurities finally belong to the past." The voucherless picking and the final loading control via radio frequency lead to a doubtless documentation of goods dispatch. LFS 400 today guarantees faultless picking and allows permanent stocktaking.

According to the statement of Hermann Ehrhardt, CEO and founder of the Ehrhardt + Partner group, the main subject with Kattus was "like for many other clients of the food industry primarily a secure quality assurance. LFS 400 allows a complete transparency in the warehouse, as the software allows inquiring all statuses of the stored and picked items in detail."



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