

Warehouse management system LFS 400



Dairy products with system

Quality control has top priority within the dairy production industry. Therefore the Nordmilch AG uses warehouse management software for batch tracing.

More qualified information from the section of warehouse logistics allow Nordmilch's regional warehouse a more efficient controlling and a higher product quality. Industry leader Nordmilch therefore trusts the warehouse management system LFS 400 by Ehrhardt + Partner in its factory in Isernhagen.

With 4,400 employees and a turnover of round about 2.2 billions Euros, Nordmilch is the biggest dairy production company within Germany and ranks among the 15 biggest producers in the food and luxury food industry. Regional brands like Hansano and national family brands like Milram and Oldenburger count to their own range of goods.

The main turnover of the group is generated besides the consumption of milk – above all cream and butter – products, which are produced at low cost in huge quantities and those, where differences of brands are restrictive. In this section, the group is also active as a contract manufacturer for other commercial brands and big branded articles.

Client requirements

The regional warehouse Isernhagen handles between 680 and 920 tons of goods per day. In average, 350 clients – all end-consumer markets, wholesalers and central warehouses of trade – almost 55 different brands and 500 different items are supplied that way every day.

As the attached production site produces next to UHT-milk only fresh milk in bottles and tetra pack packages as well as whipped cream, all the other products are delivered by the nearby production site of Nordmilch and its trading partners.

Due to the best-before date period of only seven days, the entire goods handling in the fresh dairy products area is carried out within 24 hours. The UHT-milk with a longer best-before date period however is stored for at least three days before delivery for quality control in the com-



From the UHT-production the products reach ...

pletely automatic high rack warehouse and only then is provided for trade.

Project handling

Like many other LFS 400 projects within the food industry, also at Nordmilch it was obvious that the average implementation period of the modularly conceived software is much shorter than

with comparable standard software. The entire SRD were created on the basis of only three workshops. After the client's approval, the basic version of the LFS 400 was completed according to the project requirements after modular conception with existing elements and the software was adapted to the client-specific requirements. After only six months, the software implementation was completed.

... the palletizing places in order to be stored in the high bay warehouse.



Both with Nordmilch and Ehrhardt + Partner, the responsible project team consisted of three people. Because of the modular software conception of the LFS 400, it fulfils the extremely important option of a flexible expansion according to the future requirements of the food group.

Specific project requirements

In collaboration with the printer specialist PAGO, a system was elaborated with which the goods can be identified in the



production and the data per pallet can be automatically leaded to LFS 400. While usually the production employees manually register the single data of the goods unit, this automatic transfer does not only save time but also reduces the error rate. Further remarkable special characteristics of the Nordmilch project

in Isernhagen are the already mentioned options of internal storage: while in the fresh dairy products area, the goods receipt from the production is handled manually - cream and fresh milk are stored in the nearby bulk warehouses by warehouse employees - the goods storage for the UHT-milk section from the production into the seven-floor high rack with 3,486 pallet places is realised completely automatic.

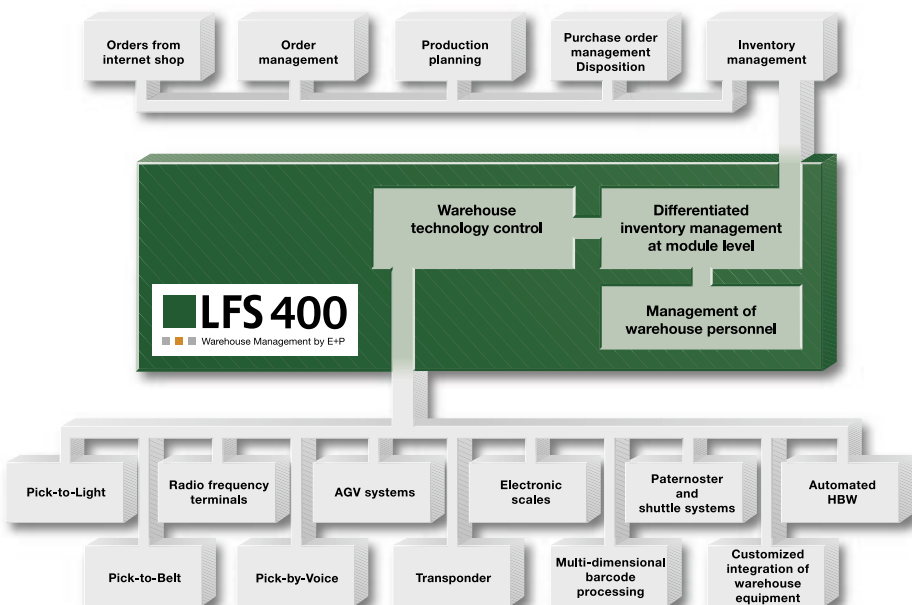
100 % security for the food industry

The warehouse management system LFS 400 guarantees in its entirety the requirements of the food industry: next to the management and administration of expiration dates, the software supports the tracing of incoming batches, the use of batches in production and also the tracing of batches to the client. Especially in the section of the UHT-milk, the goods are blocked until the quality control is completed. "In the past, the tracing of the goods to the client was only possible for us with a big manual effort", says Cord Plesse, warehouse manager of the Nordmilch regional warehouse in Isernhagen. "Through the modern batch-tracing in both directions, we are not only more reliable for our clients but also a partner who is very responsible of his duties. Furthermore, stock insecurities that happened with the manual accounting before the installation of the warehouse management system finally belong to the past". Also in the communi-

cation with the clients, a lot has changed: while the data transfer before was handled manually, it is now realised via the system with more and more clients in the biggest bandwidth possible. All those are aspects that become more and more important in the business relationships with major customers and will also be decisive criterions in future for the selection of partners and suppliers.

Efficient controlling

Thanks to the close information chain, the warehouse management system LFS 400 guarantees not only the best production quality possible, but also provides a lot of data and facts to the Nordmilch controlling department that were not available before. Using these information, not only the efficiency of the picking process can be evaluated quickly and easily, also the logistic costs and with that the real cost of the goods specifically for each single client can be clearly evaluated. This is valid for the central warehouse as well as for the little shop nearby. "LFS 400 is for us an investigation in infrastructure, in order to stay an attractive trading partner", says Matthias Müller, director of the controlling department in Isernhagen. "With LFS 400, we have an improved information quality, are flexible and quick and we can also permanently respect the client requirements in future. "



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