



PICKING FARMA

CARE

Order Distribution System (ODS) for pharmaceuticals

Picking Farma, located in Santa Perpetua de Mogoda (Barcelona), Spain, is a logistics services provider (3PL) for the pharmaceutical industry. Vanderlande Industries has installed an Order Distribution System (ODS) with 8 workstations in Picking Farma's new distribution centre.

Picking Farma supplies medicines and 'over-the-counter' (OTC) products to more than 40 clients in the pharmaceutical industry. The company recently opened a new 32,000 square metre distribution centre, large enough to handle 2,400 orders per day. Vanderlande Industries' Order Distribution System (ODS) concept was selected for order picking because it delivers very high picking accuracy.

Being a logistics services provider it is very hard to predict order volume on a day-to-day basis. Picking Farma selected ODS because of its flexibility in handling variations in order structure.

Contrary to traditional picking processes order totes remain in the flow rack while product totes move through the different areas (goods-to-man principle). The innovative system prepares orders in waves by using a fast recirculation ring to deliver product totes to pick stations.

Working with a put-to-light system has several advantages, such as picking accuracy and quick response time, so that small urgent batches can be introduced in between large ones. By selecting only the orders needed in each batch, pre-picking speed is increased. This system can deal with a large number of locations without increasing its complexity, that's why this system is especially suited to multi-client installations.



Distribution



PROJECT FACTS & FIGURES

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System

- 8 ODS workstations
- Number of orders per station: 50
- Number of batches per day: 4-6
- Operational hours: 16h/day
- Sortation: 9 outfeeds plus one outfeed for missreads, no destination, errors

Process

- Goods-to-man based order picking system

Benefits

- Efficient space utilisation
- Flexible handling of variations in order structure
- Better customer service (fast delivery, short response times)

MATERIAL HANDLING SYSTEMS

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