



Push Carts and Static Shelving Eliminated with Automated Vertical Carousel Technology

Features and Benefits

Ergonomically efficient for staff

Fully enclosed storage units keep dental products clean and safe

Process 600 to 700 shipments per day

High density utilizes cubic footage rather than square footage

Picking errors are drastically reduced with integrated software

Industry Group: Automated Storage/Retrieval Systems (ASRS)



A North American subsidiary of a worldwide manufacturer of dental products was building a 30,000 square foot warehouse/distribution facility in western NY state. According to the Director or Logistics and Warehouse Operations, the company had run out of space at their previous facility, which really hampered distribution. With the help of 6 vertical carousels working in conjunction with a sophisticated materials handling system, the same problem would not occur at the new facility.

The new warehouse/distribution center enables the company to consolidate all of its storage in-house. The system is totally integrated from order entry through order picking and shipping. The facility has earned an ISO 9001 certification and is a model of operational efficiency.

The system uses 6 vertical carousels. Four are dedicated to the technical laboratory products. This represents the bulk of the business (600 of the 700 average shipments per day), as well as the most sensitive. The remaining two carousels are dedicated to the clinical products used by dentists in their offices.

Approximately 4000 different products are housed in the vertical carousels. About 95% of the products are manufactured and shipped to the western NY facility by the company's parent company in Germany (also a user of the supplier's vertical carousels). Stocking of the carousels takes place in the mornings before the order picking process begins for the day.

The company uses the AS400 host software system and expects to switch to SAP software. Either one interfaces smoothly with the supplier's advanced inventory management system.

The inventory software receives an order queue from the host system. The operator scans the order bar code. The information is taken from the software queue and sent to the carousel, which finds the part and presents it with a display light. The software, in turn, updates the inventory.

The Director of Logistics and Warehouse Operations says, "The new system represents a quantum leap in technology where employees would push carts among static shelves. Now the product comes to them through the help of fully automated, vertical storage carousel technology.



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