



Home Furnishings Retailer Adds AS/RS With Flexibility To Handle Both Euro and Custom Pallets

Features and Benefits

Operational cost savings

Increased efficiency

High density double-deep storage

Higher operational throughput than conventional storage

Exceeded the 98% system availability guarantee

Industry Group: Automated Storage/Retrieval Systems (ASRS)



The new AS/RS provides high performance S/R machines with single and double deep load handling devices that significantly increases the throughput per aisle.

A major distributor of home furnishings distributes products from its new 786,000 square foot facility. With the new Automated Storage and Retrieval System (AS/RS), the company is able to store and ship its products to its stores much more efficiently.

As store orders are filled, the software package ensures that each shipment of orders is filled as planned and delivered on-time.

The entire system has been designed to provide an extremely efficient, and controlled operation.

Lift trucks are used to deposit and remove pallets from the system. Pallet sizing stations check the loads and scanners read the bar code labels on the pallets upon deposit.

The Identification (ID) stations verify the physical dimensions and weight of the pallets to determine if the product is too large or heavy to enter the AS/RS, or if they should be rejected due to broken boards on the pallet.

The bar code scan verifies whether the item should be stored in the AS/RS or if it should be rejected.

Pallets destined for the AS/RS enter one (1) of two (2) vertical lifts and are transported to the

mezzanine level where there are two (2) high-speed shuttle cars waiting to distribute them to one (1) of the thirteen (13) available aisles.

The pallets are then stored in one of thirteen (13) aisles by a dedicated Storage/Retrieval (S/R) machine in aisles that are approximately 100 feet high and nearly 500 feet long.

The system has the capability to store over 81,000 pallets of home furnishing products on both Euro (800 x 1200 mm) and extended customized pallets (800 x 2000 mm).

All of the S/R machines have been designed to both store and retrieve approximately thirty (30) pallets per hour, providing an overall system throughput in excess of four-hundred (400) pallets per hour in and out.

The controls provided for the system include the PLC controls for the conveyor system, the Material Flow Control (MFC) and the system visualization software, based on a MS Windows platform, that interfaces with the company's Warehouse Management System (WMS) host software.

The visualization software package provided allows workers to easily navigate through the available screens to view problems as they occur and to monitor the system operation and productivity.



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