

Zone Picking with ASRS

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Kubota

With a reputation for groundbreaking tractor and utility vehicles, Kubota's parts promise is what keeps customers coming back. Kubota's 60,000 square foot part center in Markham, Ontario has steadily grown to over 78,000 SKUs. The facility utilizes a pick and pass strategy with six Horizontal Carousel Modules (HCMs) and four Vertical Lift Module (VLM) Shuttle XPs with Power Pick Global (PPG) inventory management software.

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Zone Picking with ASRS

Six Horizontal Carousel Modules, Four Vertical Lift Module Shuttle XPs and Power Pick Global inventory management software



“Our parts promise to our customer presents an operation challenge as we have to inventory parts that are only picked once a year. To meet our parts guarantee we must be able to find it,” says Doug Ward, Logistics Manager, “and the system we had in place made that difficult.”

Previously, Kubota inventoried parts in two zones; a mezzanine shelving area for manual picking and a hi-bay shelving area using man-up trucks to access parts. The productivity rates and ergonomic risks prompted Kubota to look for a more efficient automated solution.

Kubota now uses a pick and pass strategy with three picking zones, two of which are automated for maximum efficiency. Six HCMs manage the fast-moving SKUs; four Shuttle XPs manage the medium moving SKUs and the slower moving SKUs are stored in hi-bay shelving.

The complete system was purchased and implemented in phases. In the first phase, Kubota purchased six HCMs to replace a three-story mezzanine in coordination with a building relocation. The HCMs provided ergonomic picking and a dramatic increase in productivity. In the second phase, Kubota added another work zone using the four Shuttle XPs.

Scope of Delivery:

- 6 Horizontal Carousel Modules
- 4 Vertical Lift Module Shuttle XPs
- Power Pick Global inventory management software

“We were out of space and were considering an expansion,” says Ward, “The Shuttle XPs allowed us to free up floor space and avoid a costly building expansion.”

Doug Ward, Logistics Manager, Kubota