Highly Accurate Track and Trace Solution to Reduce Shipping and Picking Errors

SICK, Inc

SICK is one of the world's leading manufacturers of sensors, safety systems, machine vision, encoders and automatic identification products for industrial applications. With more than 1000 patents, SICK continues to lead the industry in new product innovations. The diversity of its product line allows SICK to offer solutions at every phase of production in the logistics, automotive, packaging, electronics, food and beverage, and material handling markets.

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"Surely we need better and more useful technology instead of simply more technology"

Dr. Erwin SICK, founder, SICK Inc.

Growth & Impact

Efficiency
Increased control over inventory

Optimization
Improved storage utilization

Productivity
Lower product loss and re-handling

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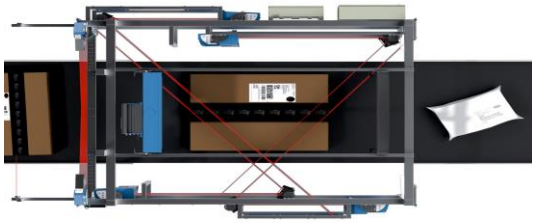
How a supplier increased throughput by over 300% with an automated picking solution and audit system to gain better access to process sensor data



The Challenge

Many shipping and picking errors can be resolved by automating picking processes and implementing automated audit systems to ensure everything in order is correct before it is sent out. A global manufacturing supply company was looking for a way to automate these processes to ensure correct qualities of its products are shipped to the correct retail store.

This supplier was having issues with stock being delivered to incorrect retail stores or delivering incorrect quantities. Prior to involving SICK, this process was manual with no automation, which led to many errors and added costs to resolve issues from these errors. The retailer that was receiving incorrect orders recommended that the supplier contact SICK for a solution as the retailer had successfully been using SICK's scanning tunnels in their own operations.

The Solution: A track and trace end-to-end solution, the Pallet Audit system, was installed to improve these processes

- Using SICK's ICR camera tunnel system, packages can be validated against the manifest to ensure the correct quantity is shipped and sent to the correct location.
- The ICR tunnel produces high-resolution image quality for highly accurate read rates for identification applications on sorting processes.
- It can help to increase throughput to more than 18,000 objects per hour at conveyor speeds of up to four meters per second.
- The excellent image quality from the integrated cameras also enables it to be used in OCR, video coding, and vision applications.
- Using a handheld scanner, the API populates the pallet results on its display using SICK's SIM2000. The operator then loads packages onto the conveyor through the camera tunnel system and once verified as accurate ships to the store.
- The customer was able to increase throughput in operations by over 300%.The system SICK installed increased their throughput to over 50 pallets per day and is looking to implement a complete sortation system from SICK in the future.