

Refrigerated cheese specialties in the new AutoStore® system with multi-order picking and connecting conveyor technology at Heiderbeck

Heiderbeck GmbH in Olching, Bavaria, is a successful sales company in the German market for high-quality cheese specialties and refrigerated delicatessen products. Hardly any other German cheese specialist marketer has such an extensive and qualified cheese assortment. In the adjacent, modern delicatessen outlet, visitors may sample international cheese and delicatessen specialties on an area of around 80 square meters. For the storage of cheese specialties, HÖRMANN Logistik delivers an AutoStore® system with the customized warehouse management system HiLIS AS and multi-order picking stations in an existing refrigerated warehouse.

Concept

Adapting the AutoStore® small parts warehouse to Heiderbeck's requirements to the highest extent, HÖRMANN Logistik carried out a comprehensive system simulation with real data. The system was dimensioned for a daily performance of over 10,200 storage and retrieval operations and resulted in the following parameters:

16,500 bins measuring 649 x 449 x 330 mm (L x W x H) can be stored and handled on 15 levels. Each bin has a net load capacity of approx. 30.5 kg.

Three Carousel workstations are available for incoming goods, with the retrofitting of an additional port already planned.

Outgoing goods are initially handled at three Carousel workstation modules, with provision already made for the installation of additional ports in the future.

The single-double grid with overall dimensions of 14.1 m x 35.4 m x 6.2 m (L x W x H) is installed above the container stacks. On the grid, 26 Red-Line robots move in two directions by means of their four pairs of wheels arranged at an angle, thus accessing any position in the grid. They communicate via WLAN with the AutoStore® controller, assigning transport orders to the individual robots. When the order load is low or the battery capacity is too low, the robots move to one of the 20 charging stations at the edge of the grid. The AutoStore® controller is housed on the connected service platform.

Multi-order picking with batch formation for intelligent compilation of orders

In order to increase the number of target container operations per the sourcing bins, the decision was made to group orders into batches by means of software intelligence. This means that one employee picks from a designated AutoStore® bin to several orders at the same time. This reduces the time required for order picking and reduces the number of bin movements. A

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maximum of four picking orders are combined per batch.

At the initial three multi-order picking ports, employees pick the cheese specialties from the AutoStore® source bin, guided by put-to-light displays, place them in one or, up to four respectively, customer shipping containers. The order pick is directly confirmed at the put-to-light system. The shipping containers are transported to the palletizing area in the neighboring hall via the conveyor system, also installed by HÖRMANN Logistik.

In order to meet food requirements, the AutoStore containers can be cleaned as needed via two transfer cells.

Maximum performance and availability with the WMS HiLIS AS

By its basic concept, the AutoStore® control system autonomously executes the transport orders for all robots, but does not administer the SKU information of the containers. For this purpose, HÖRMANN Logistik has developed the higher-level warehouse management system HiLIS AS. This is tailored to the requirements of AutoStore® and directly interfaces to the customer's HOST systems. HiLIS AS also controls the put-to-light picking order process and the customer container handling via the transfer cells. With the HiLIS AS visualization, all system data and functions can be accessed quickly at any time.

The AutoStore® system at Heiderbeck GmbH will go into operation in mid-September 2021.

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