

WITH DELAYED UPDATES ELIMINATED, KERRYGOLD IS NOW IN CONTROL...

CHALLENGE

After Kerrygold outsourced its warehouse and distribution of cut and packed products to Cullina, Kerrygold decided to look at upgrading its Automated Identification Data Capture (AIDC) and Warehouse Management Systems (WMS).

The need for an upgrade was an ongoing issue for Kerrygold as they were running two systems: Movex ERP and Commander WMS simultaneously. This meant that there was a delayed update-taking place between Movex and Commander. BEC (Systems Integration) Ltd was called in as the preferred supplier to look after the AIDC side, due to its experience, understanding and working relationship with Lawson Software.

SOLUTION

Kerrygold replaced its Commander WMS system (which interfaced into Movex) with Movex WMS, at the same time replacing the old AIDC system that had supported the Commander WMS; with a new Radio Frequency [RF] solution. The new solution used BEC's integration software: SIGMA to communicate, across a network of RF Access Points, with hand held terminals as well as vehicle mount units with tethered long-range scanners.

The Movex WMS system was a new Movex development and involved significant development by BEC of the data capture integration. BEC worked directly with Lawson to develop new approved Application Programme Interfaces to update into the system.

With the WMS and ERP systems now talking to each other and 28300 transactions a week updated instantly, Kerrygold eliminates stock reconciliation, improves efficiency & stock rotation.



AREAS OF USE:

Goods In / Put Away

On receipt of pallets, a pallet label is generated containing details of the product and its allocated barcode. At the same time, within the WMS, a complex interrogation of locations is conducted by zone and locations to find the best location for the product. This forms a crucial link in the WMS between the pallet and the location. The Fork Lift Truck (FLT) driver scans this barcode and his vehicle mounted terminal directs him to the pallet's put away location.

The put away transaction is actually done in two stages as Kerrygold have a narrow aisle warehouse. The FLT driver in the narrow aisle warehouse actually logs onto an aisle in the warehouse, the operator then uses his vehicle mounted device to scan the pallet label. This gives him the required location in the aisle, for put away. On arrival at that location, the operator confirms the location, by scanning the location label on the racking, before the pallet is put away.

The terminal shows each individual stage of the transaction at a time, only accepting correct input scans, if the scan is incorrect, the operator is notified. This is crucial to the efficiency and accuracy within the WMS and production as Kerrygold previously had problems with pallets of goods being put away, moved or used without the WMS being updated. This in turn resulted in problems in locating products and calculating stock accuracy, as the system would often show 2 pallets in the same location.



Manufacturing Order Issue

On arrival at one of the cutting lines, the FLT driver scans a Manufacturing Order (MO) barcode; this then displays the required pallet for that MO as well as the location it is in. The system will only allow the FLT driver to collect and issue this pallet from this location.

Previously, part pallets were ignored as using them meant more line replenishments, this then resulted in poor stock rotation, something the new AIDC system has eliminated. The FLT driver on arrival at the required location scans the location label and pallet label to confirm the correct product has been picked. The product is then deposited at the correct production line by scanning the MO barcode again.

Transactions are also available to move goods between production lines and back into stock. These types of transactions and prompts are used in the issuing of packaging to the back flush locations and sometimes return to stock.



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Finished Goods

Completed pallets of finished goods are moved to the finished goods area where the outer-case barcode is scanned. This automatically produces a pallet label which is applied to the pallet. The label contains 2 barcodes, the first for use by Cullina on arrival at its site, the other contains details of the pallet contents and its put away location. Typically the put away location is the despatch bay, although it can be moved into Kerrygold's stock at peak times.

There are also transactions to cover areas such as Supplier Returns, Pallet Enquiries, Location Enquiries, Pallet Moves, Finished Goods Rework, and Stocktaking.

BENEFITS

The Movex WMS and Movex ERP systems provide Kerrygold with a single Manufacturing and Warehouse Management system. BEC's AIDC solution provides real time direct updating and validating into Movex, giving the following benefits: -

- Eliminating the need for stock reconciliation across two systems, AIDC inputs and validates the data 'Real time' into Movex
- Significant savings in resource entering and cross checking data
- Thus also giving significant improvements in data accuracy, single input, reduced key strokes [typical inputting errors 1 in 300]
- A more stable system, less system downtime and resources required to maintain it
- An increased confidence in the system information for planning, production and Inventory accuracy
- Response times from scanning a barcode to having the data displayed is less than 1 second, this is crucial in the fast paced environment of Kerrygold where Kerrygold currently does an average of 23,800 WMS transactions per week.

ABOUT KERRYGOLD

The Irish Dairy Board (IDB) was formed in 1961 and with an annual turnover of 1.8 billion euros is now the major International exporter of Irish dairy products worldwide. IDB owns the internationally established Kerrygold brand, which is the Irish dairy Industry's most important marketing asset for producing cheese, butter and cream.

The Kerrygold site based in Leek, Staffordshire is responsible for the cutting and packing of cheese. On average Kerrygold processes and supplies 900 tonnes of cheese a week to the major supermarkets.