

Manufacturing/Warehouse Management

Company profile

This company is one of the leading Gourmet Food manufacturers and a specialist distributor that customarily produces more than 35 tons of food daily. With an 86,000 square foot facility, the company possesses frozen storage of ingredients and maintains a minus 10° F temperature within their Freezer warehouse consisting of thousands of slot locations for pallets and bins.

Business situation

Existing bar code-based inventory system would often freeze up in the cold storage area creating massive inaccuracies and production downtime as forklift operators would have to search for the product required. There were a few unacceptable downtime scenarios, lack of inventory visibility created delays throughout the entire manufacturing process. In the year of 2006, the client wanted an exclusive approach for RFID compliance requirements with their retailers.

Solution

Sameva Global along with technological partner, a leading RFID and inventory management solution provider, proposed an indispensable solution by furnishing RFID tagged pallets and bins.

Sameva facilitated seamless RFID enabled Lift trucks with touch screens, readers, antennas and wireless tag commissioning devices that created an added advantage for complete integration with enterprise warehouse management system

The RFID solution flows between the production area and the frozen storage warehouse. Completed food products and ingredients are packaged in bins or pallets and the tags are commissioned by a mobile interrogator. RFID enabled lift trucks provide mobile active portals on the floor. The VMU's (Vehicle Mount Units) communicate with the WMS (warehouse management system) via a WLAN (wireless LAN) in the warehouse. Application logic in the WMS instructs the lift truck operator where the pallet needs to be placed in the frozen storage area. Pick / Move / Put-away information is then displayed on the touch screens of the forklift for next step operations. RFID location tags are used at the entrance to each slot in the rack storage to verify that the product is placed in the correct location.

Benefits

These initiatives improved the production ingredients and enabled product visibility that in turn reduced time of material availability to production and eliminated down-time due to freezer environment.

The company is ready for Retailer compliance based upon their schedules and resources and was able to gain up internal ROI.