

Measures of Success

Meyer Corporation: Delivering Cookware for the Twenty-First Century

Based in Vallejo, California, Meyer Corporation is part of Meyer International Holdings. With manufacturing plants throughout the world, they manufacture and distribute high quality, top performing cookware, utilizing cutting edge technology and design. Using various materials such as stainless steel, hard-anodized aluminum, and nonstick aluminum, they produce four different brand names, including Farberware and Kitchen Aid that are effectively marketed to satisfy a wide spectrum of cookware needs.

This marketing strategy made them one of the fastest growing cookware companies during the 90's. Today, they are the second largest distributor of range top cookware in the country.

"Our newest Distribution Center in Fairfield, California was added to provide better service to our growing number of retail outlets as well as satisfy direct fulfillment shipments generated from our website potsandpans.com, stated Mike Rummelhoff, Director of Distribution Logistics, at Meyer Corp.

Two 2-Tier Pick Modules Utilized in Full Case Order Picking System

The majority of product shipped from the Fairfield DC originates in the full case pick modules. Labels are generated and applied to full cases. Cases are loaded onto Automotion Slider Bed Belt conveyors and transported out of the pick modules. Full cases are replenished to carton flow rack from the rear of the pick module.



Split Case Order Picking System

Slower moving SKU's, which make up a small portion of the overall shipments, are picked in a separate pick module. After verifying the contents of the split case orders, cartons are void filled, sealed, labeled, and merged with other full case product on the main trunk accumulation conveyor lines.

Two-Wide Merge Tables

A combination of zero-pressure live roller accumulation conveyor and decline belt conveyor transport cartons to the two-wide merge tables. Photoeye sensors and a programmable logic controller (PLC) are used to introduce cartons to the merge tables where they are seamlessly merged onto one conveyor.

Product from the pick modules accu

mulate on Automotion Zero Pressure mechanical accumulation conveyor. The accumulation conveyor feeds the induction system.

Induction System

The induction system utilizes two varying speed belts to effectively "pull" gaps between cartons so they can be introduced to the sorter one carton at a time. The second, or downstream bed of the induction unit runs at a faster speed so that it pulls product away from the slower running first induction bed.

Full Case Order Verification System

Each full case carton is tagged with two barcodes. One that is affixed at the Meyer Corporation factory that manufactured the cookware, and one that is generated and affixed at the

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SYSTEM SUMMARY

Distribution Center:

Meyer Corp. Fairfield, CA

Size:

366,000 Square Feet

Employees:

42 regular (Additional temporary staff as required)

Products:

Cookware

Manufacturing Capability:

Performed at other facilities throughout the World

Throughput:

4.4 million cartons per year
7500 peak orders per day

Pick Accuracy:

99.96%

Shipping Method:

UPS, Fedex, LTL, TL

Shipping Destination:

Retail Stores, Gourmet Stores and Direct to Consumer

Automation Conveyor Utilized:

Belt Conveyor; Zero Pressure Accumulation Conveyor; Live Roller

Integrated Equipment:

Manhattan Associates WMS (LogisticsPRO running on an IBM AS400 platform), Norand Intermec scanners, Accusort scanner, Zebra Printers.

Automation Sorter:

Flat Face Arm - 32 CPM. Automation ADM and ASC sorter controls

ERP System

JD Edwards (running on an IBM AS400 platform)

Distribution Center. Once inducted, each carton is scanned by a side mounted Accu-Sort barcode scanner. The scanner records data from both of the barcodes and transmits the data to the Automation Data manager (ADM), which directly interfaces with the Warehouse Management System (WMS). The Automation Data Manager compares the data from the factories barcode, which contains a description of the contents of the box, with the Distribution Centers barcode, which contains a description of what was ordered. If they match the carton is approved and is assigned to the designated divert lane. Once diverted, the carton is validated and confirmed with the WMS via the same interface. If the two barcodes do not match, the carton is diverted to an inspection area for further disposition.

High Speed Flat Face Shipping Sorter

After induction and scanning, the Warehouse Management System, within milliseconds, records the scanned information, matches it to the order, and responds by automatically assigning divert lane information. With the sorter running at a constant speed and with a shaft encoder reporting data to the Automation Sorter Controller (ASC), the ASC is able to approximate the distance each carton has traveled on the sorter. Lane assignments as determined by the Warehouse Management System are reported to the ASC and cartons are diverted to their appropriate destination.

The sortation system includes 8 shipping downlines and 1 value-added line where additional internal labeling requirements are met.

Pallet Building

Cartons destined for retail outlet fulfillment are diverted to down lines where gravity conveyor feeds the pallet building areas. Cartons are palletized by carton serial number and assigned to a pal-

let serial number barcode. Pallets are then assigned to a dock door by barcode. Once the trailer arrives the pallet is scanned for verification before being loaded onto TL & LTL carriers for delivery.

Cartons for direct fulfillment are diverted to a down line where they are loaded onto parcel carriers for delivery.

**99.9% Carton Pick Accuracy**

The Synergy between all parties involved enable the new system to significantly increase efficiency for Meyer Corp. The new system literally takes the merchandise from inventory, through order verification and packaging, and onto the sorter where it is routed directly onto the carrier. "With the new system we enjoy a 99.96% pick accuracy for carton shipments", stated Rummelhoff. "The accuracy of our inventory has relieved us from the responsibility to perform annual physical inventories as required by Price Waterhouse Coopers", concluded Rummelhoff.