

BEC's WMS hits the sweet spot for HARIBO's new factory



Loved by all and instantly recognisable across the world, HARIBO has been catering to our universal desire for sweet treats for over 100 years. Still managed by the founding Riegel family, the company now has manufacturing locations across Europe and over 7,000 worldwide employees. In the UK, it is now the leading gums and jellies brand, employing over 700 people from two sites in Yorkshire.

Business Issue

Thanks to continuous demand increases HARIBO was opening a new 30,700m² purpose-built factory in Castleford to compliment its original Pontefract plant. The company had historically relied on a paper-based system with Excel spreadsheets to record stock movement and stock levels, but this wasted time and was difficult to manage efficiently. As production levels continued to increase it became clear that a manual approach was not sustainable. Stock administration processes for both raw materials and finished goods needed to be managed in real-time, with greater options for automation and improved reporting.

Solution

After completing a review of software options from different vendors, HARIBO decided to replace its old paper-based tracking system with BEC's eSmart® Warehouse, a fully automated warehouse management system (WMS). From inventory control and increased stock availability to paperwork elimination and real-time validation of all transaction data, BEC eSmart® Warehouse integrates with any ERP system to allow businesses to manage their warehouses more effectivity.

The new WMS was integrated with rugged Honeywell mobile devices to give warehouse management real-time reporting on inventory levels, raw materials and stock movements throughout the factory. "Having worked with BEC on previous projects, I was confident of their capabilities and what they could offer to a business like HARIBO. I made contact with them as well as several other providers, however BEC proved to be the right partner," says Joe Walker, Business Systems Development Manager at HARIBO.



"Having seen BEC's software solutions in action, it quickly became clear that we had chosen the right partner. The solutions team was experienced, professional and very keen to get involved, which convinced us to fully integrate the new software into our Infor ERP."

Joe Walker

Business Systems Development
Manager

Before beginning the project, BEC performed an initial feasibility study to determine exactly how automation would benefit HARIBO. This was combined with site visits to other BEC users so HARIBO could learn from their experiences before planning its own fully automated warehouse. Post feasibility study, BEC completed a full data capture audit of HARIBO's warehouse to get a full understanding of all operational processes before optimisation with the WMS.

Results

Management now has real-time visibility of each pallet entering or leaving the warehouse from raw materials to packaging and can immediately locate any item. HARIBO's new warehouse solution automates all put-away, stock movement, two stage picking, stock counting and QC functions.

Paper-based administration has almost been eliminated with the introduction of real-time stock visibility and reporting. This has cut administration, accelerated month-end stock counts and means managers always have an up-to-date overview of stock levels and placement.

"The new solution from BEC has been a game changer. Everything is faster and simpler in terms of our stock operations. There's no lengthy paper trail and all stock information is instantly available at the touch of a button," adds Joe Walker.

Importantly, warehouse operatives have found the transition from paper to using technology very straightforward. They recognised the benefits and were confident with using the new WMS system in a short time. "BEC eSmart Warehouse is very adaptable and could quickly be customised to suit our unique process workflows. From initial software testing through to project completion, we really couldn't be happier with the outcome."

In summary: BEC's Added Value

- ▶ Replaced paper-based processes with new warehouse management system (WMS)
- ▶ Improved efficiency and productivity, reduced levels of administration and removed errors
- ▶ Smooth implementation with high user acceptance levels
- ▶ Solution was customised to suit HARIBO's workflow processes.

