



DAVIGEL

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Bernard Blaizel,
Logistics Director, Davigel

The Customer

Founded in 1963, Davigel is a major frozen food supplier to the French catering industry. Davigel, part of the Nestlé group, has 80,000 customers in France, including traditional restaurants, butchers and domestic caterers, as well as office, hospital, and resthome restaurants.

Davigel offers an extensive range of refrigerated and frozen food products. With approximately 150,000 tons of stored goods per year, significant warehouse space is needed and a warehouse management system is essential. Davigel's headquarters are located in Dieppe in northern France. The company has a total of eight branches strategically located across France to ensure all their clients receive fast delivery of their food products. However, an accurate, centralised database of each branch warehouse's inventory was lacking.

The Challenge

A comprehensive system that is able to trace food items to their source, in order to meet stringent new European legislation that came into effect from January 2005. Davigel needed to develop its traceability, using EAN128 bar code symbology defining many critical pieces of information. It identifies, among other things, the site where a pallet was loaded, the means of transport and the total number of items on a pallet.



Warehouse Management uses RF technology with voice-picking for this installation. This allows direct confirmation of the customer orders and real-time adaptation of stock levels.

"With Warehouse Management we are moving from traceability at 'item' level towards the more precise 'article/supplier/batch'," says Bernard Blaizel, Logistics Director at Davigel. "The new EAN128 bar coding contains all the relevant information needed to track an item back to its source, so it was a necessity that the system we chose used this bar coding technology."

Organising a warehouse in such a way that hundreds of food pallets are stored with respect to key parameters such as content, expiry date and customer needs is a challenging task. "Besides the costs relating to cooling or freezing, there were equally important factors that had to be considered" says Blaizel. "The way we stored our goods and moved them around in our warehouses actually slowed down our picking process. We were also not exploiting the full potential of our warehouse space, only 80% was being used."

The Solution

A fully compliant system to meet the new traceability regulations using the EAN128 bar coding symbology.

"Not only are we now in full compliance with European regulations, the system also uses the characteristics of the EAN128 barcode to the fullest extent" says Blaizel. "Warehouse Management uses the barcode on incoming pallets to make an accurate assessment of our stock. This allows us to trace items with respect to their expiry date or batch number. The combination of EAN128 and Warehouse Management therefore has increased our stock accuracy."

Warehouse Management keeps track of exactly what is coming in and going out of the warehouse and makes accurate calculations on where to put each of the pallets. The system even reserves space for goods shortly before they come in to the warehouse. Through an ingenious system of mixed storage, Davigel now make 100% use of their warehouse space.

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Warehouse Management uses the information on the EAN128 barcode to recognise the food products. The system stores as many identical products as possible near its pick face in order to replenish nearly empty pick faces quickly. Warehouse Management automatically detects low stock levels and immediately issues tasks for warehouse staff to relocate pallets within the warehouse.

Without a comprehensive warehouse management system, there are bound to be human errors in the picking process. Wrong items can be picked, some can be forgotten and pallets do not get replenished fast enough. “We needed to minimise the number of errors. Time was spent on receiving paper orders and manually entering the picking results on a PC” says Blaizel.

Warehouse Management uses RF technology with voice-picking for this installation. This allows direct confirmation of the customer orders and real-time adaptation of stock levels. Warehouse Management enabled an increase in the accuracy of picking. This means far fewer returned goods, lower costs and higher customer satisfaction. The voice system increased the efficiency of picking staff. They get their orders by voice and are able to confirm them in real-time.

This way, Warehouse Management can instantly recognise empty pick faces and issue replenishment orders. Warehouse Management also optimises the allocation of time and human resources so that Davigel has the right people working on the right task, all the time.

Warehouse Management is an open-ended solution. This means that once installed at one site, the system can be implemented throughout an entire network of company branches. “With RedPrairie’s solution, we now have an immediate view of our inventory countrywide,” explains Blaizel. “We can determine the capacity of our sites all over France in realtime. This gives us the capability to supply our regional hubs with stock from our own factories. We were able to install the system at all eight of our sites without the help of consultants.”

Blaizel comments, “One of the primary objectives of our traceability programme was an improved and standardised monitoring of the movement of food in our warehouse. Warehouse Management answered this need and integrated perfectly into our daily workflow in the warehouse and existing IT infrastructure. Through mixed storage, we now achieve a 100% optimisation of warehouse space. The implementation of Warehouse Management was carried out by a multi-talented team from RedPrairie. They combined years of experience with excellent work methods.”

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The Results

- 100% usage of warehouse space
- Near perfect stock accuracy
- Increased picking efficiency
- Country-wide scalability
- Real-time voice picking
- Automatically replenished pick faces
- Full traceability to the source
- Compliance with European General Food Law
- Improved resource allocation
- Complete monitoring of movement of goods in the warehouse

For more information

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