



Performance Report

CooperVision

Challenge:

With 11 million lenses in stock, CooperVision needed the highest inventory control efficiency and picking accuracy.

Solution:

Customized system of four horizontal carousels, lighttrees and ICO software.

Result:

Productivity increased 66% from six operators to two with increased same-day shipments, order accuracy and inventory control.

“...a return on investment in less than 18 months.”



Joe Stannard, Vice President-Logistics for CooperVision, states: “Installing the White carousel system provided us with labor efficiency, plus a return on investment (ROI) in less than 18 months.”

CooperVision, the fourth largest contact lens manufacturer in the world, ships to over 35,000 optical shops in the U.S. alone. With 11 million lenses in stock, the demands for inventory control and picking accuracy are high.

“Orders that print by 3:30 go out that day. That’s where White’s horizontal carousel system and Spectrum/MMS software come into play at this distribution center,” says Stannard.

Bottom drive horizontal carousel system holding 16,000 SKUs in 9,800 totes, improves efficiency, growth and customer satisfaction.

Zero downtime. “We run 24 hours a day here,” states Stannard. “White’s carousels have performed with zero downtime.”

The four bottom drive carousels hold 16,000 SKUs in 9,800 totes, which works out to approximately 850,000 contact lenses. The pod’s outer carousels each have 42 bins and the inner carousels have 40 bins. The bins measure 28 inches wide by 12 inches deep by 97 inches high and have 15 shelves each.

Efficiency. For 16 hours each day, two operators pick between 250 and 600 lines an hour, filling 1500 orders a day with an average of three lines per order. Before installation of the White carousel system, it took six people to attain the same pick rate. That’s a 66% increase in picking efficiency.

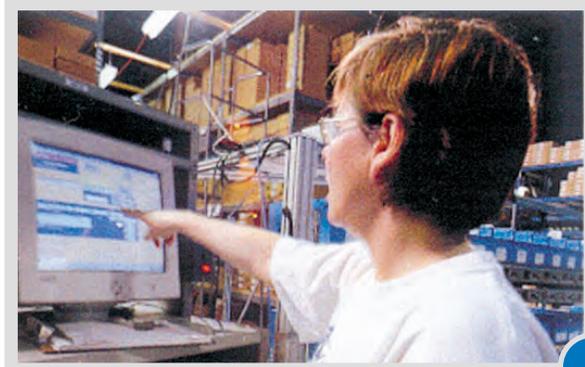
The remaining six hours are used for replenishment. “Restocking time is greatly improved. The software’s inventory tracking and reporting capabilities have helped in this area,” says Stannard.

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Top: Spectrum/MMS software allows the operator to "hot pick" an item for immediate shipment.

Middle: The operator initiates picking using a hand held RF transmitter that spins the carousels and lights the Light trees.

Bottom: A scan of each picked item verifies that the correct SKU ships with the correct order.



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Orders downloaded from CooperVision's order entry system are sorted into batches from 24 to 96 per pod. The Spectrum/MMS software optimizes the batches to minimize carousel rotation.

Accuracy. The operator initiates picking with the use of a hand held RF transmitter. The carousels position themselves and a Lighttree indicates the location and quantity of the first SKU to be picked. Orders are picked into assigned totes as indicated by a sortbar.

After each pick is made, the operator again activates the hand held transmitter to complete the task and light the Lighttree for the next pick. When all picks in the batch are complete, the totes are passed to another operator who scans each item. The computer software checks the SKU numbers against the order and rejects any inconsistencies. Completed orders are placed in a tote, put on a conveyor and sent to shipping.

The White carousel system has improved efficiencies and positioned this distribution center for growth while maintaining high customer satisfaction.



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