

Big pick accuracy improvements

Avery Weigh-Tronix has launched a new mobile picking solution which is set to make a big impact on the overall cost of picking and packing operations by drastically improving picking accuracy at the point of pick.

The system, which features barcode scanning, weight verification and varying levels of WMS integration, helps to avoid errors that require repacking or shipping checks, allowing quality control to be achieved as a single touch.

Stewart Campbell, logistics manager at Avery Weigh-Tronix, says: "We understand that implementing a verification process that slows down picking operations is absolutely not an option. The new mobile workstation puts quality control right at the forefront of the picking process by combining everything that a user would need to quickly and accurately verify their pick, without needing to defer to a separate QA process. This simple yet

effective solution allows operators to realise huge efficiency savings, avoid costly reworks and reduce any contractual penalties associated with service quality and accuracy."

The combination of a mobile picking trolley, touch screen terminal, picking software, on-board battery power, WMS integration and a highly accurate scale for weight verification, provides the user with a quick and simple way to validate that an order has been picked correctly.

Configurable, the workstation has the power to integrate with existing pick management tools such as Pick to Voice/Pick to Light, features various levels of integration with WMS stock data and is available as a manual or powered picking cart in a variety of sizes.

As well as verifying picking accuracy, the new solution enables real-time inventory control.

Stewart concludes: "Initial feedback from clients using these



systems has shown significant benefits and a speedy return on investment. Reducing the impact of incorrect picks offers costs savings across the process; from avoiding double pick time and re-shipping charges, to reducing customer

service time and impact on reputation. In addition, building weighing into any picking and packing operation can help to safeguard profits by reducing both under and over shipments."

Tel: 0845 307 0314



**Health & Safety
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Safer lifting platforms

Easifit Loading Systems' approach to developing loading bay products can be summed up by its motto "We take care" – but how precisely does it do that?

"By listening to what our clients' tell us and by working in close collaboration with them to develop solutions that improves their business," the company says.

It was through this practice that it came to develop a new safety feature on its latest Double Dok Lifting Platform for a Dotcom customer.

Loading Systems Double Dok

Lifting Platforms enable the loading and unloading of home delivery vans as well as single-deck and double deck trailers from a single loading bay.

One of the new safety features is a self-tensioning wire skirt positioned under the lifting platform which creates a wall of steel preventing operators or goods from falling into the gap underneath the lift. This feature is said to ensure the uppermost in safety compliance, efficiency and quality.

Tel: 01484 601400

The warehouse is the online 'engine room'

WMS specialist, **Indigo Software** has first-hand insight into the many different variants of an eCommerce business and the difficulties that companies can encounter in their warehouses as a result of inefficient processes, 'silo-ed' working and inconsistent stock visibility.

To ease a transition to eCommerce or help companies optimise existing processes, Indigo has published a new white paper: Foundations for e-commerce: the warehouse as the 'online engine room'.

It is full of practical advice and written for companies who want to ensure they can achieve the maximum benefit from their investment in a WMS by building three core capabilities: 1) flexible, accurate and efficient warehouse operations; 2) the ability to accommodate a range of order profiles and achieve OTIF (on time in full) delivery targets; and 3) customer service excellence whilst mitigating excessive operating costs.

Mark Wilkinson, consultancy manager at Indigo Software says: "eCommerce has made the warehouse one of the most important assets and a highly

strategic business centre. Contrary to popular belief, it is the warehouse and not the website that's the hub of an eCommerce operation."

Readers of Indigo's white paper will learn what makes an eCommerce warehouse distinct; common problem zones and how to calculate the ROI from investing in a WMS. To obtain a copy, email melissa.collins@indigo.co.uk

Tel: 0191 375 6700

