ANSMANN®

PACKING TABLE SOLUTION

FOR SAP® ERP

REFERENCE REPORT

ANSMANN AG has substantially increased productivity in the packing sector and increased the proportion of correctly delivered parcels to 99.99 percent. At the same time, the training time for temporary staff has been drastically reduced. The packing table solution for SAP® by Flexus AG is responsible for this.

Internationally successful and medium-sized: These characteristics describe ANSMANN AG, located in Assamstadt. The company, founded in 1991, specializes in charging and lighting technology, power supplies and technical accessories. The business development is im-pressive due to its dynamic growth, which also means that demands placed on the logistics are rising.

INITIAL SITUATION AT ANSMANN AG

Due to different sectors within ANSMANN AG, up to 8,000 different articles are required and stored regularly at the Assamstadt logistics center alone. There are major differences regarding the type, size and properties of the products. Many of the stored goods are subject to the dangerous goods regulations. At the same time, a wide variety of distribution channels must be served. The spectrum ranges from delivery in production lines to discounters, specialist retailers and online retailers. On top of this, there are major fluctuations in demand, extremely short delivery times and a wide range of shipment sizes. The spectrum ranges from letter items to full truck loads.

Due to the rapidly increasing demand there have been bottlenecks in the packing area and the connected inspection station in recent years. There, the goods were checked for completeness with a scanner after completion of the picking process. However, when there was a high volume of shipments, the inspection station repeatedly proved to be a bottleneck. Shipments would pile up and could therefore not be dispatched in time, even though capacities were still available at the packing table.

Besides that, the tabular picklists were created using a text program back then, which led to a considerable expense in time and effort. Furthermore, the data had to be transferred manually to the SAP® ERP system used at ANSMANN AG after the packaging process.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SAP® PACKING TABLE SOLUTION

Against this background, ANSMANN AG was looking for a flexible and automated control solution for the packing area. "The standard packing table planned in SAP® did not offer the necessary functions to make the process safe or error-free for temporary help at short notice," recalls Michael Albrecht, Head of Logistics at ANSMANN AG.

Functions such as the display of the required dangerous goods labels, the attachment of delivery notes in or on the package and the auditory error output are not available in the SAP® standard.

With these requirements, the responsible persons at ANSMANN AG turned to Flexus AG, which has been responsible for the company's SAP® logistics for many years. "As an SAP partner, Flexus AG has the necessary know-how to seamlessly integrate system extensions into our SAP environment and to optimally control them," explains Albrecht.

In the concrete case one could fall back on the packing table solution for SAP® developed by Flexus AG. This means that the employees in the shipping process are guided through the individual work steps such as packing, weighing and label printing directly in SAP® via an intuitive packing dialog. This simplifies the process to such an extent that even temporary staff can be trained at short notice.

The Flexus packing table solution for SAP® enables the handling of all relevant packing table functions in a single application. The solution even takes over the control of label printing for CEP service providers such as DPD or DHL directly from SAP®.

RESULTS OF THE SAP® PACKING TABLE SOLUTION®

In the course of the project, the packaging line was also modernized and the packing tables were equipped with additional printers, touchscreens, barcode scanners and buffer lanes. Another focal point was the connection of different types of scales to the packing table and the audio output of various error and info messages personalized for each user.

Eight parcel packing stations and one pallet packing station are currently equipped with the packing table solution, increasing the proportion of correctly delivered parcels to 99.99 percent. Michael Albrecht is therefore very satisfied with the packing table solution for SAP®: "The packing table minimizes picking errors and post-processing costs," emphasizes the logistics manager. Due to the improved work quality, the inspection station, a former bottleneck, could also be completely eliminated from the shipping process, while the packing lists are now automatically generated via SAP®.

"The combined display of the required labels and voice output gives colleagues the assurance that both the specifications required by the customer and the legal requirements are met. All in all, the packing table was a milestone in the further development of the shipping department," says Albrecht.

BACKGROUND ANSMANN AG

ANSMANN AG produces and develops chargers, accumulators and batteries, lamps and much more in the field of "mobile energy". Founded in 1991 by Edgar ANSMANN, the company employs almost 400 people at eight locations and has an annual turnover of over €50m.

Worldwide shipping takes place via six logistics centers at the company headquarters in Assamstadt as well as Harlow (UK), Gothenburg (Sweden), Rengtu (South China/Asia), Blackwood (North and South America) and Hong Kong.

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