



Imbach Logistik AG, Switzerland
A Case Study



Logistics solution with integrated weight control for consumer goods

"The flexibility and user-friendliness are definite arguments in favor of Swisslog's solution."

Lukas Duss
Vice Director, Imbach Logistik AG

The customer and his requirements

Imbach Logistik AG (imlog) is a family business specializing in logistics services, e.g. a complete SCM solution (including storage, order picking, transport and various customer-specific tasks) for champagne, wine and spirits.

In the second half of the year 2001 imlog decided to merge their off-premises warehouses to a central logistics center at the company headquarters in Schachen in order to reorganize warehouse logistics.



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The Solution

Swisslog's initial task was, in short, to implement a warehouse management system that took into account all of imlog's process specifications, to integrate the new solution with the existing ERP system, to embed the existing ASP solution (Citrix MetaFrame) and to set up an interface with the new conveyor system including automatic weight control functionality. At a later stage, further requirements were added to the project, e.g. integrated batch tracking.

A complex of buildings with 200 block storage areas for up to 24 pallets each and a high-bay racking store with 7000 locations for pallets and boxes was established at the company headquarters in Schachen, Switzerland. Within the framework of the project "Reorganization of Warehouse Logistics" Swisslog implemented

their standard product WarehouseManager.

The choice of this software was based mainly on its flexibility.

Within three months, all order picking tasks were executed virtually without error in the new logistics center, partly due to the integrated weight control functionality checking all outbound shipments.

Logistics Data



Number of block storage areas	200
Number of articles	20,000
Number of articles in store simultaneously	6,000 - 8,000
Orders per day	250
Picks per day	<1,200

External HW:
Hand-helds with integrated scanner

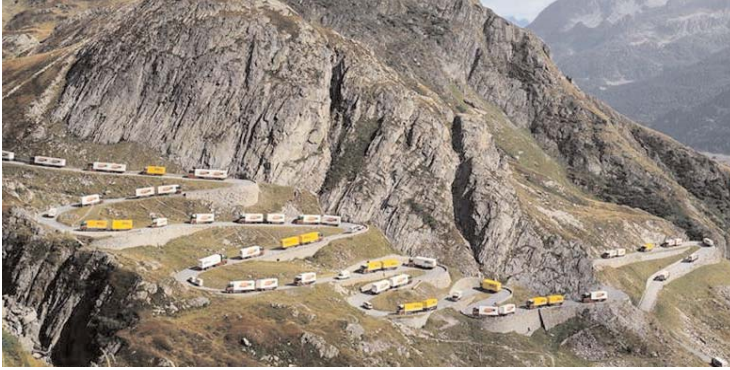
Transports:
With trucks, combined train/trucks, postal

High-bay store:

Number of storage locations for pallets and cartons	7,000
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System Data:

WarehouseManager	Version 3080c
Server	Windows 2000
Clients	Windows PCs



Interview



Lukas Duss
Vice Director

What were the overall objectives for the project "Logistics Center Schachen"?

"Our major goal was to bring together the various external warehouses to one central location. Thanks to firm owner Walter Imbach's ingenuity, it was possible to establish the logistics center in Schachen where, until then, only the company headquarters had resided. The new building called for a redefinition of warehouse logistics processes. The main focus was put on the efficient, high-quality, and above all, flexible processing of warehousing transactions. Flexibility is very important for logistics service providers, who have to make allowances for occupation fluctuation or inventory changes."

How significant was the introduction of the new warehouse management software?

"Since the entire project was geared towards maximum flexibility, we decided to rather not invest in the automation of the flow of goods. It was in fact far more important to automate the flow of information, i.e. enable paper-free handling of warehouse logistics processes using warehouse management software, bar codes and scanners. By doing so, we are able to efficiently optimize the deployment of employees and forklifts. Consequently, the transition to the new warehouse management software was indeed quite significant."

What were the main reasons for Imbach Logistik AG to choose Swisslog's WarehouseManager?

"One crucial point was the fact that WarehouseManager is based on a standard solution and thus does not have

to be customized. That way you are not dependent on individual people. Additionally, the software has been tested and is therefore less prone to "teething problems". We also wanted to benefit from further developments, i.e. new releases. Apart from that, our decision was based on the following criteria:

- *The entire project team liked the user-friendliness of the software as well as the method of implementation.*
- *We gathered various references, and everybody we asked recommended WarehouseManager.*
- *The price is certainly an important factor for me as financial director, though the software investment was only seen as a partial expense. The consequential costs also have to be taken into account, e.g. for maintenance contracts, modifications, new releases, etc."*

You are responsible for logistics and finances at Imbach Logistik AG. How satisfied are you with the ROI for the Swisslog solution?

"We calculated the ROI for the entire project and discovered that we have already exceeded the expectations for this period. WarehouseManager definitely contributed to this success."

What do your employees say about WarehouseManager, now that they have worked with the software for almost three years?

"Our employees enjoy working with the software and cannot imagine going back to the old paper-based system. I think, that says it all."



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Customer Data



Imbach Logistik AG, Switzerland
www.imbach-logistik.ch

Year established	1905	- Collateral management
Annual revenue	approx. 40 MCHF	- Pricing
Employees	230	- Repacking, packaging
Headquarters	Schachen, Switzerland	- Labeling, weighing
Branch office	Basel, Switzerland	- Mailing
Warehouses	Wolhusen and Lenzburg, Switzerland	- Promotions / exhibitions
		- Wine distribution
		- Delivery to private addresses
Services:		- FTL transport
- Road transportation of LTL freight		- Special assignments
- Combined rail/road transportation of LTL freight => Cargo Domizil		- Customs clearance
- Warehouse logistics		- Bonded warehouse
- Order picking		- Excise warehouse for spirits

Benefits

The new software solution helps imlog employees to efficiently deploy the centralized and extended storage capacities and fulfil customer requirements for order picking. By combining maximum flexibility and the benefits of a standard application, the software offers a quick and cost-efficient solution for both company-specific tasks and new customer requirements. The batch traceability function is integrated in the storage process and ensures consistent product tracking as required in the food & beverage industry.

The integrated weight control enables the automatic identification and duly correction of falsely picked consignments before they are dispatched. The use of bar code technology and scanners minimizes the risk of errors. In addition, the labeling option included in the warehouse management solution eliminates post-processing efforts for shipping.

Swisslog Scope of Supply

- Implementation of a warehouse management system in line with all of imlog's process specifications
- Integration of the new solution with the existing ERP system
- Embedded solution in existing ASP system (Citrix MetaFrame)
- Set up of interface with the new conveyor system including automatic weight control
- Integration of batch tracking function
- Set up of the new system
- Training of key users
- System maintenance