

LOGISTICS EXCELLENCE THROUGH RFID.

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The present study analyses the application of new technologies in the search for logistics excellence in warehousing in the ceramic cluster. The objective is to reach a level of total traceability in the warehouse through the establishment of RFid systems and other technologies. This, in turn, would help towards partly obtaining logistics excellence in the ceramic sector.

Due the increase in competitiveness and globalisation nowadays, logistics and the establishment of intelligent warehouses have become highly important functions and a key element in the success of any company. Logistics presents itself as a first-order strategy for maintaining competitiveness.

Optimum management in a warehouse is a complicated task. Currently, in most warehouses, there is no optimum control of the warehoused products. Some tasks like actual stock control, product location, reduction of preparation and dispatch time, etc... incur higher costs and are inefficient.

In this environment, we believe that successful warehouse management is a must, primarily, for its flexibility in providing space and also for its efficient management.

Therefore, we should have appropriate logistic infrastructures in order to address the challenge of logistics excellence. Being capable of offering customers a satisfactory response within a short period of time is a goal that is pursued by all. Furthermore, the versatility of RFid technology allows companies to adapt quickly to the changes the logistic chain demands.

The establishment of a chaotic warehousing structure is an investment that will help towards achieving total traceability in the warehouses and also towards achieving part of the sought-after logistics excellence.

The following briefly outlines some improvement tips for intelligent warehouses using RFid:

- JiT (Just in Time). Intelligent stock management allows us to work against stock. Do we have stock of the product? What amount? Where? Oversized warehouses
- Relocation of products and optimisation of the access points to the products in order to reduce time and costs
- Improve stock rotation. Where we have the product is of utmost importance when preparing the delivery note for the order and for stock control.
- Monitoring real time and the flow of information in the warehouse allowing you to obtain the right value indicators.

We have sought to make the different combined technologies converge with new work methodologies so that they could add value to the warehousing systems. The result of this was chaotic warehouse management which is a new but consistent concept, which can provide part of the sought-after logistics excellence.

In conclusion, the study offers an overview of some applicable improvements to the logistic systems currently in place in ceramic clusters. The logistic methodology in

use at the moment could be improved through the implementation of RFid and new, automatic working methods that are completely transparent to the customer. The quest for logistics excellence is not an unattainable objective.