

Extraordinary packaging quality achieved with visual goods tracking.

Video-based goods tracking solution from Axis and SeeTec supports ABWood in delivering results beyond expectations.



Organization:
ABWood Sp. z o.o.

Location:
Slawno, Poland

Industry segment:
Transportation

Application:
Visual goods tracking

Axis partner:
Intellisight AB
SeeTec

Mission

Apart from producing high quality flat-pack furniture and furniture components, ABWood in Poland, supplier to IKEA, knew that to pack and ship products quickly and safely from A to B would further strengthen its good reputation as a sub supplier. To maintain a high packaging precision and minimize deviations and missing parts for deliveries to IKEA, ABWood was in search of a system to ensure that all parts of a product would be packed into the right box and to provide visual quality control for compliance. In IKEA's and ABWood's common strive for excellence, an ambitious goal was set: to reduce packaging line issues by 25% in one year.

Solution

It was decided to implement the visual goods tracking solution from Axis and SeeTec. The solution monitors the packaging lines, tracks batches and integrates data from ERP / Warehouse Management Systems and RFID / barcode systems with video so that each item or shipment can be reliably identified, tracked and monitored

throughout its journey through the packaging line.

This enables the solution to support quality control throughout the packaging process, with full transparency, and allows for better management of customer claims and deviations. Simply put, with this solution, ABWood can quickly find out what happened in case of a problem with the packaging line and solve the issue accordingly.

Result

With the visual goods tracking system in place, ABWood and IKEA noted results beyond all expectations. By only informing the staff about the upcoming system, improvement was made. With the system in place, quality issues were reduced by 44%, which far exceeds the ambitious goal for the project. The return on investment was achieved within less than 7 months.

“With the visual goods tracking solution, we know exactly what happens in our packaging line at any given time, and can deal with any issues swiftly and easily. The solution has helped us pinpoint recurring problems, and has already greatly improved the efficiency of our packaging process to make it run more smoothly. This not only saves us time and money, but it also helps us maintain the high quality IKEA expects”

Daniel Kret, production manager & member of the board, ABWood.

The ABWood Sp. z o.o. factory was built in 1974–1976 as the flagship of the Polish wood industry. The company is a large manufacturer of pinewood furniture using wood material prepared at its own sawmill, covering an area of over 34 hectares. ABWood does not only produce and sell tables, beds and various furniture components, but also planks, wooden garden products, pallets, as well as wood briquettes.

A key customer of ABWood is IKEA, widely known for its furniture, and by suppliers for its high quality demands. To maintain high packaging precision and to minimize deviations and missing parts for deliveries to its customer, ABWood needed a system to ensure that all parts of a product were packed into the right box and to provide visual quality control for compliance. The solution the companies were looking for had to be capable of detecting packaging errors automatically. ABWood wanted to be able to review a monitoring report and only repack one faulty package instead of repackaging a whole pallet if an error was detected during final inspection. The solution also needed to offer the capability to review records in case of claims reported by customers as well as an optical verification system for packaging lines where each layer of the parts in the packaging line should equal the amount of cameras needed. In addition, the system had to provide one picture per layer of product to prove compliance with the packaging instructions. In IKEA's and ABWood's common strive for excellence, an ambitious goal was set: to reduce packaging line issues by 25% in one year.

It was decided to implement the visual goods tracking solution from Axis and SeeTec. The solution monitors the packaging lines, tracks batches and integrates data from ERP / Warehouse Management Systems and RFID / barcode systems with video so that each item or shipment can be reliably identified, tracked and monitored throughout its journey through the packaging line.

This enables the solution to support quality control throughout the packaging process, with full transparency, and allows better management of customer claims and deviations. Simply put, with this solution, ABWood can quickly find out what happened in case of a problem with the packaging process and solve the issue accordingly.

Result

With the visual goods tracking system in place, ABWood and IKEA noted results beyond all expectations. By only informing staff about the upcoming system, improvement was made. With the system in place, quality issues were reduced by 44%, which far exceeds the ambitious goal of 25% that was set in the beginning of the project. Return on investment was achieved within only 7 months.

The project itself increased awareness of packaging quality issues. It has become easier to monitor and control quality due to fast access to the relevant data. Using this data, ABWood has already identified the main problem areas in the packaging process and found solutions on how to improve them and to train staff accordingly. For instance, one finding was that most errors were made after a break in the existing shift. With new improved working methods implemented, these mistakes could be entirely eliminated. ABWood uses the visual goods tracking system to ensure that all parts of a piece of furniture are packed in the box. If there is a problem reported, the root cause can be immediately identified and corrected.

The solution has also helped to identify additional potential for improvement. The next step is now to place a screen next to each line, so co-workers can see the packaging lines live, and spot and solve quality problems as they occur.

ABWood has also investigated the possibilities of scanning every packaging to track the exact pace of the packaging-line, and to add further cameras at the loading bays to get full transparency and information about compliance of packaging issues.

