

RETAIL LOGISTICS



INTELLIGENT KITCHEN SOLUTIONS

Logistics for Nobilia and Nolte Küchen

Customer profile

Our clients Nobilia and Nolte Küchen produce high-quality kitchens for Germany and the world. Germany's biggest kitchen brands export their products to over 50 countries. Together they earn annual sales of a billion euros. The product range also includes electrical appliances of well-known brand manufacturers.

By providing a wide variety of household appliances made by different manufacturers, it is possible to offer customers a completely equipped kitchen from a single source. This requires appropriate warehousing.

Assignment

It was necessary to set up a supplier logistics center ready for operation within six months so as to centrally bundle the commodity flows of all suppliers. A logistics specialist was contracted to set up and operate this center. BLG was involved from the planning stage to commissioning.

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The main job of the logistics provider is to put together goods according to the requirements of the kitchen manufacturer and supply them to the production process according to meticulously clocked schedules (just in sequence). One of the prerequisites for the location was physical proximity to the respective production plants of the kitchen manufacturers. Furthermore, a railway link was required since many suppliers make use of rail transport.

Logistics service

BLG decided in favor of the city of Melle because it is located in the geographic center of the German furniture industry and is easily accessible via autobahn A30. The logistics center set up in Melle is 290,000 square feet in size and has been in operation since 2000.

The special challenge regarding the IT system was to take into account the specific process and handling requirements of the suppliers. Processes were developed and implemented at the interfaces between kitchen and electrical appliance manufacturers jointly with the customers. To ensure smooth communication between the suppliers and kitchen manufacturers involved and BLG, standards were developed in cooperation with the client. BLG Retail Logistics acts as a link and interpreter here between the kitchen manufacturers and suppliers.

In addition, a sorting function and route planning specially geared to the customer requirements were implemented to introduce sequence-based and manufacturer-specific order picking.

Different individual specifications of the electrical appliance manufacturers have to be taken into account when handling the goods. This requires great product know-how that BLG secures and further develops on a long-term basis through regular training of its staff. It is necessary, for example, to observe different clamping pressures in connection with industrial trucks or stacking heights when putting goods into stock.

BLG uses modern walking floor systems in the outgoing goods section. This technology is compatible with that of the client and enables extremely short loading and unloading times.



Summary

A universal logistics process for white goods was set up for Nolte and Nobilia Küchen and just-in-sequence delivery to the production plants guaranteed. Furthermore, it is possible to add other suppliers to the program and integrate them into the supplier logistics center at any time.

BLG Retail Logistics is the central contact concerning changes and process modifications for both the kitchen manufacturers and their suppliers. Thanks to the geographic proximity, the company can respond very flexibly when changes are made at short notice.



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