



Colors in Warehouses Delphi-Jordan

While visiting some warehouses, workers and often times the warehouse's manager start complaining about: how the warehouse is complicated? , how is it easy to get lost in the warehouse or loose the stocked items? , and how it takes lots of time to train new stock pickers? On the other hand, the same workers would talk proudly about how they know the locations of everything by heart after a number of years of experience.

Finding the rationale behind the division of the warehouse into the currently existing areas or zones is sometimes impossible. Additional puzzles that might be encountered are: how the routes for pickers are designed? and how the locations within shelves are selected? Using a sophisticated Warehouse Management System WMS with bar-coding and addressing system might be the first solution that comes to mind to solve these problems.

It is always good to have a WMS; however, for small and medium warehouses, buying a sophisticated WMS with optimization capabilities might not be a wise choice. Starting with a good warehouse design might be a better solution that an expensive WMS and developing a visual management system for warehouses might be more beneficial.

Using colors to show the different area, zones or profiling the stocked items might be a cheap and efficient method to manage warehouses. Different areas, zones and aisles might be differentiated by coloring the floor of the warehouse. Different bays can be distinguished by coloring the racking system. Finally, the different shelves can be distinguished by small but obvious ribbons.

While designing the paths within the warehouse, it would be a good idea to follow a systematic color coding similar to the rainbow colors. The optimality of the pickers' routes –distance that the picker needs to travel- could be easily checked by comparing the sequence of zones visited to the rainbow colors.

One argument about this color coding system is that warehouses would look like Disney land. Well, why not! Additionally, no need to color the whole floor or racks to show this system, finding a proper area to show the drawing might be adequate.