

Grocery Cooperative, Topco, Partners with Weber Logistics to Improve Distribution to Member Supermarket Chains

SITUATION

Topco Associates LLC is one of the largest retail grocery cooperatives in the United States. Topco provides sourcing, innovation, packaging, label management, quality assurance and nutritional assistance through store brand and private label services for its more than 50 member-owners. The true competitive advantage Topco provides its members is based on the sourcing and aggregation of its volume. In addition, Topco offers a number of logistics services to its members, including managed freight, consolidation and dairy perishable distribution centers and rapid replenishment. In 2011, Topco partnered with Weber Logistics to run its West Coast ambient temperature consolidation center in Stockton, California. Topco selected Weber Logistics because of its familiarity with managing food distribution and its proven ability to optimize distribution processes, improve inventory management and warehouse labor efficiency, and provide outstanding service to its West Coast members.



KEYS TO SUCCESS

- **Lot and date-code management.** Both FEFO (First Expiry, First Out) and FIFO (First In, First Out) processes are automated using Weber's WMS.
- **Automated inventory alerts.** As specific products approach minimum shelf life, Topco management is notified to ensure that Topco's members receive the highest fill rate and freshest product.
- **Custom email reports.** Developed to ensure Topco has the right information available to proactively manage the business.
- **Tight security.** Processes ensure secure storage and controlled access to FDA-regulated products that require 24/7 video surveillance and weekly cycle count reconciliation.
- **Adherence to member-specific shipment presentation requirements.** This includes consolidation of same item/same pallet, segregation of purchase orders, pick-accuracy, and damage-free shipments.

RESULTS

At the onset of our engagement with Weber Logistics, they took the time to clearly understand our business requirement and provide a warehouse management and distribution solution for Topco's West Coast members. Weber has assembled a core team with grocery industry knowledge to manage our daily operations; their ability to respond to our dynamic needs separates them from other logistics providers. Weber Logistics continues to be a strategic logistics business partner for Topco.

Lorne Brown
Director of Logistics

ACCOUNT CHARACTERISTICS

- 2000+ SKUs
- 95%+ case-pick
- 3 distinct grocery programs: Health and Beauty Care, Grocery and General Merchandise
- 60,000-sq-ft footprint within a multi-client DC
- Average throughput of 8,000 cases per day