



ORDER PICKING

Successful order picking process through Pick2Pallet

OUR GOAL: *To strengthen and create a more efficient supply chain for your company*

Topco's Logistic & Distribution Team offers a multitude of programs to help your company implement top-notch strategies to optimize your business operations. We focus on warehouse services, Transportation (Truckload/TL & Less Than Truckload/LTL), OTR Equipment, and Unloading Services to help you drive out costs and generate revenue depending on the program. We work with your in-house team to identify opportunities and potential savings while collaborating with national supplier partners, and local dealers.

RESULTS

20%-22%
REDUCTION OF
ERRORS

18% INCREASED
PRODUCTIVITY

OVERVIEW

Order picking represents up to 55% of total warehousing expenses. There are many challenges to order picking such as travel time, pick errors, product damage and product handling. To reduce picking errors and warehouse expenses, Merchants Distributors Inc. (MDI), a Topco Wholesale member, contacted Topco Indirect's Materials Handling Equipment supplier, Raymond, for assistance. MDI devised a lighting system to help employees execute their order picking without errors. Since MDI's warehouse was unable to test the lighting system idea, another Topco Wholesale member, Associated Grocers of Baton Rouge (AGBR), volunteered to try the concept.

STRATEGY

MDI developed a process that would help their employees increase pick time and reduce pick errors. With the collaboration of Raymond, AGBR, and MDI, a process called "Pick2Pallet" was created. Pick2Pallet is an LED Light system that can be integrated into the reach truck, WMS (Warehouse Management System) and Voice Pick Systems. The WMS communicates to the operator through the voice system the location to go to, items to pick, quantity of items, and which customer order it is associated with. The Pick2Pallet system lights up the pallet (A or B) to indicate where the operator should place the items. Once the operator confirms the quantity and pallet, the light will turn off. Lights in forklifts give visual reinforcement for the operator to accurately place the product. Other benefits include prevention of product misplacement, quicker to process than verbal cues, and easier processing for bilingual workers.

RESULTS

The collaborative effort between Raymond, MDI, and AGBR resulted in AGBR realizing a 20%-22% reduction in pick errors. AGBR has up to an 18% increase in productivity as a result of Raymond's AB pick process, Pick2Pallet, and the purchase of Raymond center riders. Overall, AGBR is quite satisfied with Topco's Order Picking program offered through Raymond.



We can duplicate these results for you!

Contact Kim Minsky, Category Analyst-Logistics & Distribution, Topco Indirect, at kminsky@topco.com