



Case study: Kverneland Group

Multiple picking solutions for massive parts warehouse

Location: France



Kverneland Group, a farm equipment maker, runs a warehouse in Thionville, France, which it uses to distribute components and spare parts for its machines globally. Mecalux has equipped this warehousing installation with pallet racks, cantilever racks and shelving for picking to streamline picking of 550,000 orders per year.

Internationally recognised technology

Kverneland Group is an international brand that manufactures farming machinery. Its ploughs are of the highest quality, as well as being heavy-duty, dependable and long lasting with low maintenance and usage costs.

The company opened in 1879 when its founder, Ole Gabriel Kverneland, set up his metal workshop on the outskirts of Stavanger (Norway). Years later, the workshop has grown into a global company, with manufacturers and warehouses spread throughout the world.

Spare parts warehouse in France

Recently, Kverneland Group inaugurated a new 28,000 m² distribution centre in the French city of Thionville allocated to storing components and spare parts for its machinery. As Franck Claudon, Director of Warehousing and Distribution Europe, explains, *“Beforehand, our distribution centre was located in Flévy (north of Metz), but then we moved to Thionville in order to expand storage capacity and of-*



fer better customer service to our clientele.” With national highways close by, this fact has made this centre much more efficient when it comes to distributing goods throughout Europe.

“We equipped this warehouse because we have to deal with major business activity in Europe. To get this off the ground, we needed to organise all our in-warehouse logistics and, also, unleash operations that were taking place in the warehouse,” points out Claudon. The warehouse is

equipped with pallet racking, cantilever racks and a block of racks with built-in walkways that are three stories high. If there is something that stands out for the company’s warehousing and distribution director it is that *“the team from Mecalux carried out the assembly and installation in record time.”*

Multiple solutions to speed up picking

Kverneland Group assembles massive volumes of orders, meaning the warehouse has been specifically designed to facilitate this task. Each year it preps an average of 550,000 order lines that are sent to the company’s customers in the 79 countries it currently does business in, as well as to its other warehouses in Canada, Spain, the US, England, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Russia, etc.



Franck Claudon Director of Warehousing and Distribution at Kverneland in France

“We were very satisfied with the warehouse in Thionville because it fully met with our expectations. The assembly and installation were a real achievement, by doing it quickly and without interrupting our business from running smoothly.”





Properly organising the goods is the first step in streamlining pick tasks. In this warehouse, in particular, workers manage around 66,500 SKUs of different sizes, characteristics and rotation levels. *“We must distribute products to the corresponding slots so we can locate and manage them easily when we need them,”* points out Franck Claudon.

Besides the huge number of orders to fulfil, the operators also manage daily inputs of 350 pallets and containers from Europe and distribute another 200 or 300.

Pallet racks were installed in the facility with these requisites in mind. These racks stand 8 m high and, overall, offer a capacity to hold 41,749 pallets. It is a highly versatile storage system and one that adapts to the products’ sizes. Beams can be readjusted so that the storage slots are either bigger or smaller. There, the company’s team deposits wooden pallets and containers, for the most part.

The warehouse also has four aisles lined with 7.5 m high cantilever racks. Here is where longer components are stored, for example, spray booms that can be placed on pallets or directly on the cantilevered arms. *“These cantilevered arms are fixed to the racking upright and can be adjusted to suit our logistics needs,”* mentions Claudon.



Pallet racks, cantilever racking and those for picking have a common denominator: direct access that speeds up and facilitates product management

Lastly, Mecalux has supplied shelving for hand pick tasks that are 7.5 m high and on which walkways or raised aisles are set, for a total of three floors of storage. This solution is ideal for Kverneland Group since, according to Claudon, *“they use the height of the distribution centre to maximum available space and obtain better storage capacity.”* Operators walk around the aisles picking the products that comprise each order directly off the shelves. Operators follow the order grouping method, which consists of preparing several orders during the same trip.



Advantages for Kverneland Group

- **Maximum surface area usage:** the three storage solutions installed here optimise the available space in order to yield higher storage capacity limits.
- **Speedier picking:** direct access to the products on the racks is a crucial part of speeding up the prep of 550,000 order lines a year.
- **Goods distributed correctly:** products are slotted on the pallet racking, as well as on the cantilever and picking racks depending on their characteristics, size and rotation.



Technical data

Pallet racks

Storage capacity	41,749 pallets
Pallet size	800 x 1,200 mm
Max. pallet weight	500 kg
Racking height	8 m

Cantilever racking

Storage capacity	3,130 m (linear)
No. of locations	1,200
Racking Height	7.5 m
Racking length	60 m

Picking shelves

Storage capacity	17,583 m (linear)
No. of locations	65,000
Racking height	7.5 m
No. of levels	3 (ground floor included)