



in use at Fritz Stiefel GmbH

Automatic replenishment processes with RFID Kanban rack

Fast, process-reliable, and variable—achieving efficient and expeditious material supply

Challenge

Fritz Stiefel Industrievertretungen GmbH is a manufacturer and logistics service provider of products and their services in the area of hydraulic and pneumatic components. The Waiblingen-based company's customers include companies from the automotive and mechanical engineering sectors, as well as special machinery manufacturers.

The company is regularly faced with the challenge of mastering the delivery of products to its customers. It offers its customers a [Kanban rack solution](#) with barcode scanner for small and medium-sized parts. However, there were recurring gaps in the timing of parts removal, as well as discrepancies in the timing of empty box placement in the collection area, and the retrieval of empty containers by the Stiefel logistics team.

This is why Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH was looking for a [more efficient Kanban rack solution](#).

The goal: Dismantle the prevailing multi-bin system and replace it with a faster process, a [reliable RFID Kanban rack system](#).

Solution

In order to optimize the existing processes, Fritz Stiefel GmbH decided to develop an [RFID solution](#) together with L-mobile.

The top shelf of the Kanban rack is equipped with RFID antennas. These detect the RFID tags located on the small load carriers themselves. The RFID reader, which is also attached, detects the transponder and forwards the information to the ERP system. The [RFID tags](#) attached to the small load carrier are [identified in the ERP system](#).

If a load carrier is empty, it is placed on the RFID rack shelf. The order for the missing parts is triggered [in real time through the RFID tag](#) and recorded in the ERP system. This triggers replenishment for the next delivery cycle. Depending on the requirements of Fritz Stiefel GmbH's customers, the [E-Kanban solution](#) from L-mobile comes in two forms: In one version of the system, the small load carriers remain exclusively with the customers and are recorded at an RFID shelf with sensor technology. In a second version, the empty small load carriers are delivered to one of the Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH locations and recorded in a central, RFID-supported empty box recording system. They trigger a new order there.

Conclusion

Thanks to [automatic replenishment management](#) with the [L-mobile RFID Kanban rack](#), Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH replaces a complex and error-prone process with a [lean and transparent process](#). Its automatic integration into the ERP system also helps to reduce process costs. This facilitates easy handling of orders as well as the associated control loops in production—in real time. This means that no time is lost in the supply of materials, such as production downtimes or long order processing times.

“The reduced error rate and rapid responsiveness are key factors that influenced our decision to opt for the RFID Kanban rack,” says Marcell Singer, CFO of Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH. “This, coupled with the highly satisfactory initial discussions, were the decisive factors for entering into collaboration with L-mobile.”

Highlights

- Lean process: Complete automation of the ordering process reduces complexity and errors
- Seamless integration into the ERP system
- Digitalization: RFID technology enables automatic and error-free postings in real time
- Transparency: Electronic recording creates a transparent material flow listing of various highlights in the project (single-line or multi-line)



STIEFEL
Hydraulik © Pneumatik

Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH & Co. KG

The family-owned company Fritz Stiefel Industrie-Vertretungen GmbH was founded in 1962 by Fritz Stiefel and is now managed in the second generation by his sons Gerd and Rainer Stiefel. The company's four locations in Germany and Switzerland offer products and services in the area of hydraulics and pneumatics.

Technical details

ERP: Infor LN

Devices: Kathrein

Technology: L-mobile E-Kanban, RFID in conjunction with LAN, W-LAN or 3G mobile communications

System company: internal IT department

Statement

“L-mobile is the specialist for logistics-related topics. Moreover, L-mobile is located right on our doorstep. The quick accessibility and know-how convinced us!”

Marcell Singer | CFO Fritz Stiefel GmbH

www.l-mobile.com/e-kanban

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