

FLEXIBILITY — THE KEY TO IMPROVING WAREHOUSE PERFORMANCE



At Ahlers, we still see that many companies prefer to run with their own, operated warehouses, and not outsource these activities to logistics providers. Determining whether your supply chain business should retain an internal warehouse operation or outsource to a 3PL is not a decision to take lightly.

There could be a lot of explanations and justifications but trust me — to a certain extent, customers believe that they manage warehouse processes efficiently and control the situation. But when it comes to the deeper analysis of the whole company picture where warehousing activity represents just one other brick in the wall, then the situation changes. Management realizes that several key elements are missing and amongst them, there is the important one — **the flexibility factor**.

Comparing to the even well-developed in-house warehousing solutions, a logistics provider is much more efficient in terms of flexibility.

Ahlers is running its warehouse operations in different locations and is mixing resources to balance the most optimal solution to its clients. We operate in our own and rented warehouse facilities and manage warehousing processes in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ahlers keeps its core warehouse team on the payroll and provides only top outsourced people, as well as rented additional material handling equipment where necessary. We can use different topologies in the different warehouse blocks and build narrow-aisle racks together with the ordinary ones.

Material Handling Equipment (MHE) choice dependency.

Warehouse logistics providers can manage the types and characteristics of required forklifts, stackers, and other equipment more easily. Ahlers, for example, may shift equipment between facilities, use short lease options, upgrade MHE accessories and detachable equipment. We work with a broad variety of cargo units, packages, and types that allow us to service these operations with the most optimal type of equipment. When you start your warehouse, you take into account all known factors based on your in-house experience: type of racks, topology limitations, cell sizes, stackability, working height, etc., and order fixed MHE types. But what to do if, for example, a truck arrives with an unexpected type of cargo or packaging and it is necessary to unload it as soon as possible?

Why always leave room for maneuver?

Because we need flexibility. The flexibility that is required by our clients. And as a result — we benefit from the synergy generated by various types and processes of our different clients. We can manage season peaks and volume volatility, cope with low-quality forecasts, and help our partners to develop regionally.

Would this be possible with box standard in-house warehousing solutions?

I doubt it... And thus, we are building a real partnership with our customers, being a solid and reliable provider that stays in sync with the changing market demands. Next time I'll share with you some hints about how we select a proper warehouse location for our partners' projects and streamline the shipping process.

How Do We Serve Our Clients?
Warehouse. Flexibility.

<https://www.ahlers.com/en/warehousing>

DID YOU KNOW AHLERS NOT ONLY OFFERS STANDARD WAREHOUSING SERVICES BUT ALSO A WIDE RANGE OF VALUE-ADDED SERVICES, FROM BASIC LOADING, UNLOADING OVER PIECE PICKING VIA LABELING TO LIGHT ASSEMBLY SERVICES?

Didier Duponselle,
Global Business Unit Director.
Ahlers Logistics



PROFILE

About Ahlers — www.ahlers.com

Founded in 1909 in the Port of Antwerp, Ahlers currently employs over 650 members of staff and operates in 3 regions (Europe, CIS, Asia) helping customers to drive future growth in complex markets, Ahlers is a family-owned company, 3rd generation Ahlers-Leysen, headquartered in Antwerp, Belgium, supported by a worldwide partner network and offices in key locations. We enable our customers to stay focused on their core business by creating and managing innovative solutions that add value and solve their supply chain challenges in complex markets.