

Distribution Performance Solutions *Insights*

Order Picking Processes – Each Picking



Distribution Performance Solutions Insights

Order Picking Modules – Each Picking

Utilizing the right order picking methodology is essential in achieving operational excellence. From lowest possible distribution costs to the highest levels of customer service, order picking methodologies are at the core.

There are many types of order picking processes and selecting the best one requires a detailed understanding of order and SKU profiles and characteristics.

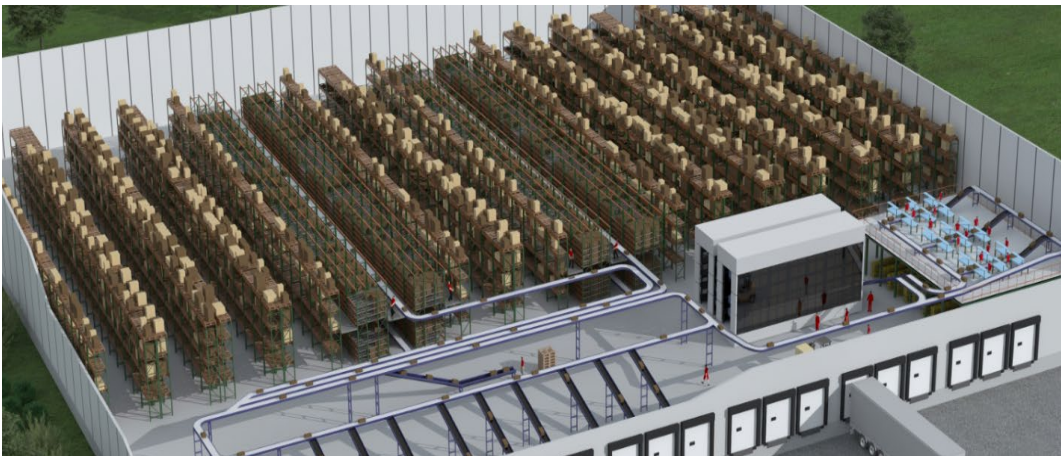
Order picking can be broken down into three primary categories:

- Each Picking
- Case Picking
- Pallet Picking

Each picking is typically considered the most complex due the variables and being most labor intensive.

Each picking, often called piece, broken-case or split-case picking, is an order selection method involving selecting single items or units of product, and placing them in a container or shipping carton for transportation to downstream processes (e.g. QC, packing, shipping).

Each picking is most common for e-commerce, parts, high-value products, and other operations where individual items are ordered by clients, instead of by case or by pallet. The each picking process includes both Single Order Picking and Multiple Order Picking.



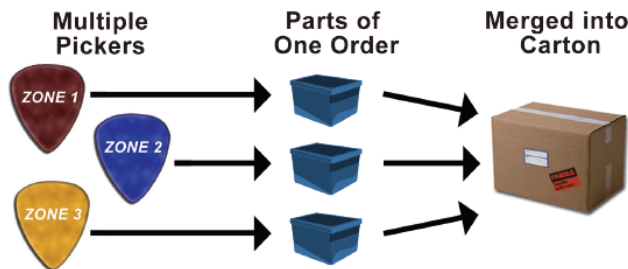
Distribution Performance Solutions Insights

Order Picking Modules – Each Picking

Single Order Each Picking

In a single order each picking environment a person visits a storage location to pick for only one order at a time, and then the person or container moves to the next location where picking for the same order is continued. The methods of Single Order Picking are:

- Discrete Order Picking - When one person picks an order complete, traveling to all storage locations to pick items for the order. Discrete order picking is typically the least productive and most labor intensive.
- Zone Picking - A person picks product only from within their zone, which is a subset of the total storage locations. Once complete with the picks in their zone, persons then pass the order to the next zone, whereby another person continues the picking for the single order. The order visits all required zones within the distribution center until complete.



- This passing of the order between zones is called a Pick-and-Pass Process. The order can be passed manually between zones (e.g. on gravity conveyor) or be automated via conveyor and controlled to automatically deliver to the zones (called Zone-Routed Pick-and-Pass).



Distribution Performance Solutions Insights

Order Picking Modules – Each Picking

Multiple Order Each Picking

Multiple order each picking involves picking multiple orders at a time when visiting a single storage location, and is typically more productive, as travel times and labor costs are dramatically reduced.

- Cluster Picking - At its most basic, a person can have multiple containers with them as they travel to storage locations (e.g. on a cart, conveyor, etc.), picking to each as required at each stop, and this is called Cluster Picking. Zone picking can be utilized, such as picking and passing carts or multiple containers on conveyor.
- Batch Picking - Typically provides even greater productivity. Batch picking involves picking larger number of orders at a time, to be sorted into individual orders downstream (e.g. sortation, put-wall, etc.). While pick rates are typically significantly higher with batch-picking due to reduced travel time labor, the offsetting downstream sortation labor must be considered.



Not covered above are the myriad of equipment and technology types (storage, transportation, communication, etc.) that are available for each-pick order picking, nor the software (e.g. WCS, WMS, OMS, etc.) and management processes (e.g. labor management, order management, slotting, etc.).

DPS provides the expertise to help our clients make the very best distribution operations decisions. We provide turnkey design and engineering, systems provision, implementation, integration and support. To learn more about how DPS can help you improve your distribution operations call 1-855-666-4554.



855.666.4554