Argos

Innovative inspection system for incoming and outgoing goods

Argos

More and more companies observe manual inspection and control of in/out goods flows as a bottleneck. Any error that occurs in this process results at a later stage in multiple problems. Amongst others, these consist of additional labor, process disruption, dissatisfied customers, and the burden of proof to suppliers.

In cooperation with a large launching customer, the Argos was developed. The Argos provides an intelligent inspection system that processes all available and measurable data of a load carrier by intelligent multi-Vision scanning. It executes this fully automatically as well as 'on-the-flight'.

The benefits for growers and trading companies are significant:

- Automated inventory management
- Automatic triggering of EAB/invoices to customers
- Value chain status update that the product has been shipped
- Chain savings: exit control grower & exporter input control
- Quality inspection of outgoing products by intelligent 4th-generation vision optical technology

The function of the Argos:

A load carrier (Danish trolley) is fed into the infeed system of the Argos. The Argos transports the load carrier independently through the inspection tunnel. All products on the load carrier are scanned using intelligent multi-Vision technology. In the process, a multitude of data was measured, such as:

Optical image of the entire load carrier

The data are optionally available and accessible for 3rd parties by using a portal. In this portal, crucial information regarding in which condition the products have arrived or are shipped can be found in case of complaints.

Product code

This provides scanning of a specific optical code such as a Data Matrix (ECC200) code. This way, information and registration of the products being present on the load carrier are collected and provided. It is possible to validate only codes within a specific range, so that any read errors caused by the presence of other codes are avoided.

The precise location of each product on the load carrier

After finding a Data Matrix code, it is possible to link the position of this code and tie it to a virtual location on the load carrier. This makes it very easy at a later stage to generate specific pick and place commands that refer to that location. Thereby, picking can be communicated using voice control, a monitor, a laser pointer or - ultimately - robotization. A correct product location is an essential basis and starting point for all mentioned systems.

Product height per cask

With living products, the product height is very relevant for quality control and achieving and correct loading level at goods removal. This prevents product damage or costly transportation of ‘air’’. The Argos measures the current product height fully automatically. The starting point is the product height visible from the side. The measured product height can be compared with stored values in the product database so that correction on product height can take place.

Control of the total number

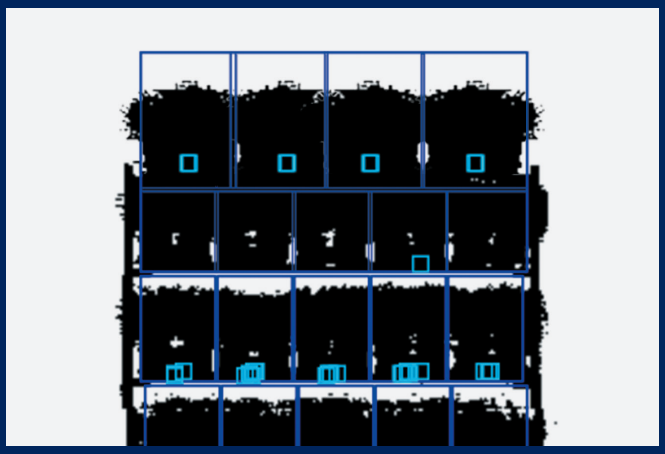
If the theoretical number per load carrier is known and displayed, this number can be automatically compared with the measured number of products. A notification is generated in case of a mismatch so an operator can correct it.

RFID tag registration

In the case of a Danish trolley, it is possible to register the RFID tag and perform a validity check.

Innovative Vision technology

Input of a Danish cart with plants



Registration view of the Argos

Configuration

The Argos can be delivered custom-made, but in the standard configuration it has the following features:

- It is equipped with a pull-through and positioning system for load carriers. Combined with an optional Lowpad system, it is possible to present load carriers fully automatically to the Argos and automate your complete process depending on the measured results.
- The processing time per load carrier is approx.—20 sec.
- Suitable for all products with a specific Data Matrix code.
- The resolution on height measurement is approx. 6 mm.
- The maximum height of the load carrier can be 2550 mm.
- The starting height from the floor is 140 mm.
- The Argos is flexible to program and equipped with standard API for communication with upstream WCS/ ERP systems.
- It comes equipped with a hand scanner for scanning any deviating codes as well as an HMI with a large screen to make any required corrections.
- Optionally, the data can be stored so that correction/ rework is possible at another location or time.

Are you interested in the Argos?

Automation with the Argos provides many benefits, including savings in labor costs and a nearly error-free process.

Get in Touch

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