

CASE STORY

Imbach Logistik AG, Lucerne (Switzerland)

Process automation all the way to the pressed carton

In the logistics centre in Lucerne, processes are highly automated. IT control extends to the disposal of emptied cardboard boxes and their compression in a stationary pressing plant.

In October 2022, Imbach Logistik AG put the first part of its new logistics centre in Lucerne-Littau into operation. This is an exemplary demonstration of how end-to-end process automation works.

7.5 tonnes of cardboard compacted every month

Delivered articles are removed from the cardboard boxes at four workstations, repacked into standard boxes and fully automatically assigned to a free space in the small parts warehouse. A conveyor belt transports the emptied cardboard boxes to the outside area. There, a stationary pressing unit with a 32-cubic-metre container compacts the material. A tipping device allows 770-litre containers filled with cardboard to be emptied manually.

When Imbach Logistik AG planned the new logistics centre, it was clear from the very beginning that all processes had to be automated as far as economically feasible. In the interest of an efficient material flow, the automation concept also took into account the disposal of empty cardboard boxes. The logistics company's specifications stipulated that 7.5 tonnes of cardboard should be disposed of and compacted every month.

An excellent benefit-cost ration

Hunkeler Systeme AG was awarded the contract to implement this part of the automation. Christian Kempter-Imbach, the logistics company's managing director, gives the following reasons: "The engineers from Wikon convinced us with their planning skills and intelligent implementation of the task at



The new logistics centre is an example of how end-to-end process automation works.



A conveyor belt (small picture) transports the emptied cardboard boxes to the outside area, where they are compacted in a press container.

hand.” He particularly emphasises the excellent benefit-cost ratio of the disposal facility.

Logistics centre sets standards

“The decision as to which company should realise the project was preceded by a thorough evaluation,” emphasises Christian Kempter-Imbach. This is despite the fact that Galliker Transport AG – the parent company of Imbach Logistik AG – has a long-standing partnership with Hunkeler Systeme AG.

Imbach Logistik AG is setting standards with its logistics centre. The small parts warehouse has 130,000 spaces for standard boxes. In addition, there are 6500 pallet spaces. To minimise space requirements, the two warehouses are arranged one above the other in one building. This results in a floor load of five tonnes per square metre. The logistics centre is scheduled for completion in October 2025. The total area will be 30 000 square metres.

It is logical and consistent to fully automate processes from the delivery of the articles to the disposal of the outer packaging.



“We wanted the highest possible degree of automation throughout the entire process chain, right up to the disposal of the cardboard boxes. Hunkeler Systeme AG was able to offer us exactly the product we wanted. We experienced the cooperation from planning to installation to commissioning of the disposal system as highly professional. It was a perfect engineering service.”

*Christian Kempter-Imbach
Managing Director
Imbach Logistik AG, Lucerne*