

Forklift operator Jarno Väisänen from the Ysi-Trukit LTD uses quite fluently the MekaMAP in the warehouse of Koskisen.



Photos: Jere Lauha

The MekaMAP graphical warehouse-management system helps to keep track of every package

Personnel at the Koskisen lumberyard and production plants always know exactly where packages are located. The electronic warehouse-map application MekaMAP, deployed at the Koskisen sites in October, ensures that everything is easy to manage and locate, even when production volumes are at their highest.

According to production manager **Jaakko Huttunen**, the benefits created by the application are immediately reflected in the operations of the sawmill and planing mill. Koskisen's operations at the Järvelä facility are highly varied, and the electronic system keeps them all running smoothly.

– The goal is to improve inventory turnover and save forklift operators' time: instead of locating sawn timber packages, they are free to focus on other work. At Järvelä, there are two grading lines, a planing mill, and a painting line. Operations

must run smoothly, and manual warehouse management is labor-intensive, Huttunen says.

He adds that the electronic warehouse management streamlines inventory-taking. Deviations are nonexistent, since each package is detected electronically.

REAL-TIME MONITORING WITH MEKAMAP

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Production manager, Koskisen Oy



bin location data and also for collection of batches for shipping. It can also be used for managing the drying kilns in the sawn-timber package area.

The core functions of MekaMAP for Koskisen operations include drying-kiln map, ready-package, and shipment features, along with barcode monitoring for the packages in the system. In the part of the system that handles completed packages, the information on package cards includes not only the location details but a wealth of other useful data, such as the tree species, length, number of cubic meters, package number, package age, quality, protection type, and reservation details.

Adoption of new skills – an investment in later rewards
Previously, Koskisen had used the MekaMAP system only for the drying kilns. Implementing the warehouse management application has been a unique process and one that has not been without its challenges.

– Not all forklift operators are equally well versed in using electronic systems, so changing one's way of thinking is often required. Some operators get anxious while waiting for the electronic system to search for and locate the sawn-timber package they will pick up with the forklift. However, the wait at that point yields time savings later, Huttunen says.

Since the October implementation, the system has been updated to take into consideration such factors as the shadow areas of the wireless network.

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MASSIVE VOLUMES OF TIMBER

Annually, 320 000 cubic meters of sawn timber are processed and prepared for shipment at Järvelä. In addition, the Kissakoski sawmill supplies approximately 10 000 cubic meters of timber for processing. A quarter of the sawn timber is processed at Koskisen's planing mill. A quarter of that material, in turn, continues on to the painting plant. Huttunen says he appreciates the fact that Savcor's application specialists know the ins and outs of the various day-to-day operations at Koskisen.

– Our counterparts are professionals who listened to our wishes and needs and customized the system for us accordingly. The project has progressed well, and Savcor's understanding of our daily operations truly shows, he says in appreciation.

