



Rigorous Fruit Traceability at Agrocanillas

Fruit producer Agrocanillas chooses Datalogic to track its products in the food chain.

Overview

Agrocanillas S.L. is a Spanish fruit producer centrally located in the most important tropical fruit production zone for Spain and Europe, where it operates with some of the sector's most modern facilities. Here it cultivates high-quality fruit thanks to the area's subtropical climate, good soil and water conditions.

The Challenge

Agrocanillas markets exotic tropical fruit to a specialized market throughout the European region, including 11,000 tons of avocados, 880 tons of mangos and cherimoyas, and 220 tons of medlars annually, providing customers with fresh fruit only 2-3 days after picking.

Agrocanillas' 16,000 sq. ft. facilities are completely mechanized with specialized

equipment to handle and pack the fruit. The facilities are equipped with a 3,000 sq. ft. cold storage chamber where fruit is maintained at 41° to 44.6° F until shipment. The team consists of approximately 30 employees, which varies according to the time of year.

Rigorous controls are carried out during fruit handling and packing. Each box is numbered to track the fruit's source. As a result of the recently implemented laws on traceability, Agrocanillas must assure tracking of each piece of fruit from the moment it arrives in the warehouse, during packaging into individual packages customized for each market sector, until it leaves the warehouse. Each pallet, crate, and mesh bag must be properly labeled to track their source and location at all times.

Agrocanillas needed an efficient and reliable data capture and identification solution to automate tracking and provide visibility into the status of each shipment. Each type of package or



Customer

Agrocanillas S.L.

Industry

Manufacturing

Application

Shop-floor

Country

Spain

Datalogic Products

Datalogic Scanning Gryphon™ M Handheld Reader
Datalogic Automation Matrix 2000™
Datalogic Automation DS2100A

Datalogic Partner

Captura de Datos

container, including pallets, crates, and mesh packages had to be identified with its source allowing tracking at any point in the packaging process. The company needed to be able track products in production lines, and anywhere in the plant, which meant that they required a combination of both manual and automated identification. Production and traceability depend upon the ability to reliably read bar codes; unreadable bar codes can halt the production process and prevent traceability.

The Solution

Agrocanillas turned to Captura de Datos (CDC), a Datalogic Accredited Reseller and system integrator in Spain, to assist them in automating their data collection. CDC recommended a complete solution based upon Datalogic products and installed Datalogic Scanning Gryphon™ mobile cordless handheld readers in concert with Datalogic Automation Matrix™ and DS2100A fixed position scanners.

The Gryphon™ Mobile cordless handheld readers were chosen to provide complete mobility near the packing line. The Matrix scanners were selected based upon their ability to read poor quality bar codes. To connect the fixed and handheld systems, Datalogic STARGATE™ RF (radio frequency) base station and STAR Cordless System™ industrial modems were installed to provide narrow band radio coverage throughout the plant.

Boxes of fruit that come from the fields are labeled with a bar code containing a lot number. This bar code is read by a DS2100A scanner stationed at the entrance to the grader machines before the boxes are emptied for sorting. The DS2100A is connected to Datalogic's STAR Cordless System and sends the data in real-time via RF to the central IT system.

The Gryphon™ M cordless readers provide complete mobility on the packing line, and are used to read bar codes on the incoming fruit pallets. Fruit is sorted and put into crates, under the supervision of stationary Matrix-1031™ scanners. These scanners are located at the front of each line and read the bar codes containing the lot number. They connect with the STARGATE RF base station and send information in real-time to the IT system.

Each individual custom package varies by the fruit's retail destination. To verify the product code and correct packaging, Gryphon™ M cordless handheld readers are used by the employees at the packing line. This data is then transmitted in real-time, continuously updating the information regarding the fruit and quantity in each package.

The Results

Agrocanillas now enjoys a fully automated tracking system and can determine at any time production status, the number of pallets passing through the grader machines, the number of crates produced by each operator, and any other information required from the time fruit arrives in the plant until it is packaged.



"With this solution, Agrocanillas has a completely automated tracking system, and now knows the state of production, number of pallets that pass through the grader machines, number of crates that each operator produces and any information regarding the fruit which arrives in the plant up to when it is packaged."

Plant Manager, Agrocanillas

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