



Pick to Light (PTL)



Fast and visual processing

Pick to Light is acknowledged to be the fastest (manual) picking method available for order fulfillment operations. Used in a wide variety of picking and sorting scenarios Inther's Pick to Light solutions guide operators in different logistic and production processes all over the world.

The operator is directed to the required location via a LED display, which shows the amount to be processed as well. This method avoids searching for locations and results in an increase of productivity and accuracy. Inther's proven Pick to Light technology now has references in many different industries like food, retail, pharmaceutical, cosmetics, automotive, etc.

Mainly two different processes can be distinguished:

Pick to Light (PTL)

PTL is a paperless picking system to pick articles from storage locations for orders.

Sort to Light (STL)

SBL is a paperless sorting system to sort articles towards customer orders.







Pick to Light

There are several applications for PTL:

Fast Mover Picking

Picking fast moving goods typically is performed from flow-racks. Each storage location is equipped with a picklight, which shows where and how much to pick. In a workstation the barcode of a specific order (tote, carton, bin, etc) is captured with a scanner. The picklights light up at these locations where articles must be picked. The display shows how many items must be collected. The operator pushes the confirmation button to acknowledge the pick instruction.

Slow Mover Picking

Slow movers can be picked paperless with a zone display in the aisle (to show how much to pick) and 'only' guiding light at the location (to show where to pick).



Sort to Light

Each sorting location is equipped with a PTL display and married to an order. At a sortation workstation the barcode of a specific article is scanned. The PTL displays light up for those orders that require the scanned article. Each display shows the required amount to be sorted for every single order. A separate zone display can show additional information about the article that is activated in a specific workstation.

Technical features



Hardware

The high quality picklight has an ergonomic design and is very robust. To achieve a system free of interferences, the picklights are mounted in a solid aluminum rail. Due to its design, dust accumulation at and in the picklight is avoided. The data and electricity connections in the rail between the picklights and the controllers are solidly designed using standard RJ45 connectors. The rail is firmly mounted at the racking and can be adjusted in multiple reading angles. The quantity to pick is shown on a 5 digits display. The multi color confirmation button lights up to indicate the location and is also used for confirmation. The quantity can be adjusted for correction with plus (+) and minus (-) buttons. Each picklight has a softwarecoded address. Optionally the digits can be implemented alphanumeric.



Software control

The software control for the PTL system is a standard module of the Inther LC® logistics automation suite. The software covers many standard features, like:

- Picklights can be activated parallel (all together) or serially (one by one).
- As an indication for the last pick in a work station, the picklight can start flashing.
- When a picklight is pressed for two se-conds, another mode for the picklight can be activated (for instance for inventory checking).



Interfacing

For the interfacing it is possible to connect any open external system. Thereby there are also certified interfaces with well-known ERP systems (SAP, Oracle).

Advantages

- › Ergonomic design
- › Intuitive confirmation button (press and light in one)
- › Numeric and alphanumeric display possible
- › Software-coded internal address
- › Robust aluminium profile
- › Different angles
- › Standard RJ-45 cabling technique
- › Galvanic separation system for enhanced signal control
- › All RGB colors can be configured per picklight
- › Picklights function in an environment with a humidity of up to 95%
- › Picklights operate between -25°C and +50°C

Efficiency improvements

Efficiency improvements up to 3 - 4 times the conventional speed can be realized.

Error minimization

Adaptations in quantity are indicated at the spot on the picklights. There is no necessity for manual updating afterwards.

Real-time processing

When the priority of an order changes during the day, it is automatically upgraded.



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