

-ARCO

Logistics line for Scherpenhuizen

Customer case | 2021



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Logistics line for Scherpenhuizen

ARCO developed and constructed the entire logistics installation for the largest Dutch distribution centre for the storage, packaging, grouping, sorting, labelling, and repacking of fruit and vegetables. To come up with the most suitable design, the sales team, the project management team, the engineering team, and the customer spent eight months conducting preliminary research.

Challenging relocation

Since Scherpenhuizen was already moving to a new facility, the company wanted to seize the opportunity to revamp its packing station – which wasn't without its challenges. In fact, there were three.

Firstly, it was important that production would not grind to a halt during the relocation;

it had to be organized in such a way that everything was moved in stages, and that part of the entire production process remained in operation.

The second challenge was to set up a more efficient line at the new facility. In the old facility, boxes and crates – as well as all the products – were brought to and processed in the line; the product was packaged and all boxes and crates were stacked on pallets, and from there they moved on to other departments. It involved a huge number of logistical movements, which had a negative impact on efficiency and on the safety of employees. ARCO worked alongside Scherpenhuizen to identify the safest and most efficient way to set up the line.

The third challenge was the integration of the old packing station. ARCO believes in the importance of not just designing new lines, but first investigating which parts of an existing line can still be used and implemented.

From a cost and environmental perspective, it is favourable to continue using existing machines and installations as much as possible.

Implementation of existing lines in a new installation

In collaboration with Scherpenhuizen, our engineers set up a thorough preliminary study to ensure that the relocation would proceed as smoothly as possible and to keep production loss to a minimum.

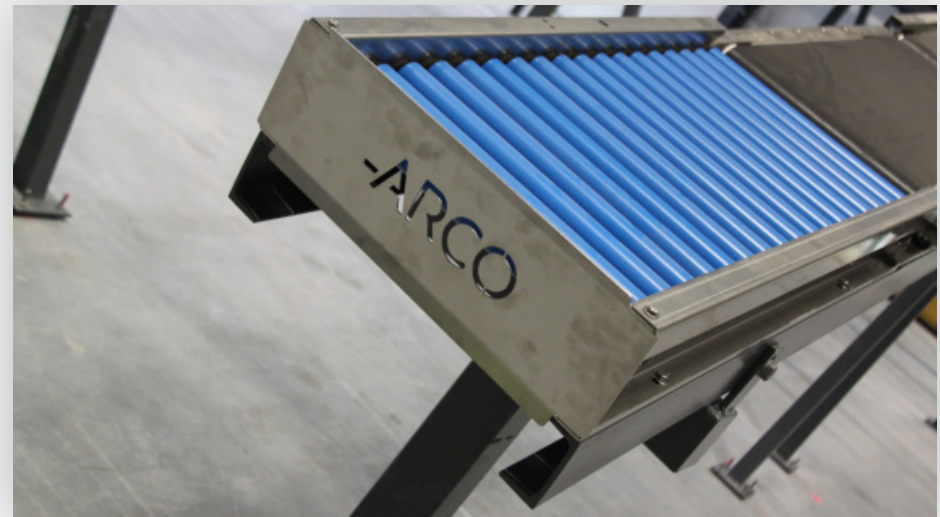
As part of this preliminary study, the team investigated which parts of the old installation could be transferred to the new location, what the safest and most efficient set-up of the new facility would be, and how an improvement in terms of effectiveness and efficiency could be achieved without sacrificing ergonomics and safety.



The preliminary study revealed that Scherpenhuizen's installation had to be moved in stages to ensure that the production process would not grind to a halt during the relocation. Existing lines that were transferred to the new facility were implemented into the new system and put into operation there, allowing the customer to keep producing throughout the move.

ARCO successfully relocated no fewer than fourteen packaging lines from Scherpenhuizen's old facility to the new location and set them up in such a way that the maximum result can be achieved with the fewest possible operations. At Scherpenhuizen's request, ARCO also developed a range of new machines, such as the big-box tilters for straightening crates that come out of the box washer and are then stacked with the big-box stacker.

All new and existing machines – including the process lines – are controlled via PLCs and linked to Scherpenhuizen's ERP system (GDE) via an intermediate layer. This link enables Scherpenhuizen to plan automatically and also provides insights into capacity, process speed, the machine, and operator performance. This way, Scherpenhuizen has access to reliable information about its KPI.





Result

Result

For Scherpenhuizen, ARCO delivered a turnkey project combining existing and new lines and machines. ARCO and Scherpenhuizen worked together to install the complete line – from conveyors to pallet handling solutions and from lifts to big-box solutions. As Scherpenhuizen puts it:

‘We know ARCO as a no-nonsense company that believes in workable and affordable solutions. This is what sets ARCO apart from other companies. They also have all the necessary knowledge in-house to create a strong and efficient line. We don’t know what the future holds, but we will certainly be happy to work together again.’

The collaboration between Scherpenhuizen and ARCO has resulted in an efficient and safe installation in Scherpenhuizen’s 40,000 m² distribution centre.

As part of this installation, ARCO integrated 14 existing packaging lines and added several new installations. Everything from storage, groupage, and packing to sorting, labelling, and repacking is taken care of by ARCO’s automated solutions.



The new installation has significantly reduced unnecessary internal transportation, improved working conditions, and helped Scherpenhuizen to guarantee its flexibility. In addition, the connection between the PLC and Scherpenhuizen's ERP system has increased safety on the work floor, created a calmer, quieter working environment, and provided greater oversight within the entire organization.



Need help with a technical issue?



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