

## **Case study**

### **Avilton TOPS Italian food market with AutoLogic software**

#### **Overview**

Avilton Foods Ltd is one of the UK's leading importers of European foods, supplying an extensive range covering chilled, ambient and frozen products from the standard to the niche or bespoke, to meet the requirements of customers from the retail, industrial and foodservice sectors.

In this article Gary Hill, Director of Logistics talks to us about how Avilton has benefited from their TOPS<sup>®</sup> Pro Package Design and Pallet Optimisation software, supplied by AutoLogic Systems Ltd.

#### **Problem and Solution**

Imported products were arriving at Avilton in many different case sizes and dimensions and pallets were being manually packed and loaded. This resulted in up to 35-40% of wasted space in each pallet loaded.

Gary Hill comments: "I knew we were wasting so much space particularly because we were trying to limit any damage caused by stacking. Once I knew that I wanted to acquire some specialist software to address this issue, I approached the key suppliers and selected the TOPS<sup>®</sup> Pro software from AutoLogic Systems Ltd. The system was very easy to use, had all of the features we required and was also very cost competitive."

#### **The Outcome**

TOPS<sup>®</sup> Pro enables Avilton Foods to input the dimensions, typical load and weight of each case. The software will then provide clear instructions on how to load each pallet ensuring maximum capacity and minimal waste. Because the software takes into account the load type, case strength and weight, the interlinking of cases can be calculated precisely and therefore the risk of damage is also minimal.

Gary adds: “We have increased our capacity in each load by 10-15%. Such savings meant that our investment in the software was paid back within 3-4 months of using the new system. We have also taken things one step further as each time a new product is introduced we can use the software to plan ahead and work with the supplier to meet our optimum packaging requirements. Previously this would be very supplier lead but any suggested improvements/changes can be clearly demonstrated up front with the software. In fact, many of our suppliers are actually using similar software now after seeing the improvements and savings we have made.

“There are many additional features we benefit from such as more accurate planning with the differentiating import and export case per pallet quantities. We can also prove to our customers that we are being proactive when it comes to reducing the amount of packaging and transport we use and investing in the latest technology. This is a key attribute which makes us a preferred choice over many of our competitors. Ultimately, we would like use to work even closer with our customers to enable them to accept more units per pallet to improve their picking rate, transport costs and carbon footprint also.”

To contact AutoLogic Systems Ltd, please call their new offices on 01844 281380, email [info@autologic-systems.co.uk](mailto:info@autologic-systems.co.uk) or visit [www.autologic-systems.co.uk](http://www.autologic-systems.co.uk).

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### **About AutoLogic Systems Ltd**

AutoLogic Systems Ltd was founded in 1993 and quickly established itself as a leading provider of simulation products and services to industry. The company has continued to grow its expertise, services and products and today offers a unique range of specialist software for eliminating waste and improving efficiency. These products are grouped into three core business areas. The Facility Design and Test area for materials handling

simulation, presentation and control system emulation/testing. The Package Design and Load Optimisation area for optimising pack, case, pallet, vehicle and container fill and the area of Vehicle Scheduling and Tracking for automating the route planning and scheduling of vehicles together with web-based tracking and reporting.