

WHITEPAPER

# Using voice to achieve a sustainable warehouse

# Introduction

Corporate responsibility, or the idea that businesses are responsible for the company's effects on environmental and social well-being, is nothing new. For decades consumers and governmental bodies have been pushing corporations to take responsibility for their actions, asking them to clean up their pollution and waste disposal procedures. Until recently, the focus of many social responsibility policies and procedures have focused on manufacturing plants, leaving the warehouse largely untouched. Now, as companies seek to expand these policies company wide, warehouses are expected to follow suit. With pick lists and bar codes that need to be printed, it can be hard to cut back on waste. Luckily, a voice implementation may be the answer to sustainability issues in the warehouse.

# Using voice



Voice is often a consideration for those looking to “go green” in the warehouse, as it requires almost zero paper to set up, and no paper at all to be functional.

With voice, the need for pick lists is completely removed, as workers get all of their instructions from a headset. Rather than referring to a list and moving through the warehouse, the voice software will guide your worker on the optimal path through the warehouse, verifying their location and pick amounts as they go. This not only removes paper entirely from the process, but also allows them to move more quickly and accurately through their picking.

Additionally, a series of check digits identifies a location, and doesn’t need to change as inventory moves in and out of the different locations in your warehouse. This means you only need to print once to set up a location, and only print additional labels if you expand or rearrange the racks.

The only investment voice requires is in the headsets and talkmans, both of which operate on rechargeable batteries and are made to have long lives in the warehouse environment.



# Voice vs the alternatives



## Removing paper

The first step in most sustainability initiatives will be to reduce paper. The easiest way this is done is by removing the need for paper pick lists. For many operations, this will be the biggest source of waste, as each pick list can be several pages long for every worker, and often end up in the trash or scattered on the warehouse floor.

There is also an additional benefit to removing paper—removing the ink that it takes to print. Ink cartridges can be a large cost for those operations that rely on paper, and can have a lot of waste associated with them. By removing the need to print you can take ink costs, both in dollars and environmental impact, out of the equation.

## Removing bar codes

Although slightly easier on the environment, bar codes can still use a significant amount of ink and paper to print. Depending on the process the warehouse utilizes, there may still be pick lists involved, and each new SKU requires a new label to be printed and posted around the warehouse.



## Removing lights

A common argument in favor of lights is that they, like voice, remove the need for paper in the warehouse. But in order to maintain functionality, regular maintenance needs to be performed on the lights, wires, and screens involved with voice. All of these pieces have components that are non-recyclable, making sustainability an issue with this system.

### Voice benefits

- Hands-free, eyes-free picking and navigation
- Increased accuracy
- Increased productivity
- Decreased training time
- Increased worker safety
- Increased worker satisfaction

# Why Infios?

With two decades of dedicated voice experience, Infios has grown to be the world's largest industrial voice integrator. Our strengths lie in:

- Our global presence with local support wherever you are located
- Our process expertise across the distribution, manufacturing, maintenance and inspection sectors makes every voice installation we implement completely relevant for each individual application
- Our technology leadership, with solutions tailored for every company size, sector and use case

- Our software compatibility which integrates with your key host systems
- Our solutions scalability, allowing you to keep aligned with the changing needs of the business

Infios prides itself on being a long-term partner for our clients. We work with you during implementation to ensure every detail of your system works with optimal functionality, and on an ongoing basis while the system is up and running to make sure it is delivering maximum performance. As your business dynamics change, Infios is on hand to support your emerging needs.

## CONCLUSION

If your warehouse is looking to move toward a more sustainable environment, voice may be a great option for you. In addition to all of the benefits that voice has to offer, it has a very low cost to the environment, making it appealing for many companies attempting to "go green".

### For more information

To learn more about Infios's voice solution and how it can benefit your business, please visit our website for more details:

[READ MORE](#)