

## Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control



**Salt Lake City, UT** – Utah is one of eighteen states that controls alcoholic beverages sales at either the wholesale or retail level. The Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (DABC) has been charged with meeting growing consumer demand for alcoholic beverages while protecting the public interest. This translates into keeping the individual customer happy by making sure the retail outlets are well stocked with lots of variety in an efficient and cost effective manner.

An increasing population and growing tourism following the 2002 Winter Olympics placed a burden on existing inventory. Utah DABC was quick to respond by expanding their facility to handle the overstock needed to fulfill orders during seasonal peaks. The new expansion increased capacity while virtually eliminating conditions such as overcrowding, product damage, lost inventory and aisle congestion. At the same time, it increased the quality of employee work life with a more ergonomic system. That's a pretty tall order by anyone's standards, but Utah DABC was up to the challenge. Utah DABC expanded into a fully-automated facility capable of handling an additional 300,000 to 350,000

### Utah Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control Distribution Center

- Rack supported building with 6,160 pallet storage locations
- 5 aisle of Unit Load AS/RS, each over 100 feet in height
- 650 feet of input and output conveyor
- Warehouse RX® WMS

### Key Customer Benefits

- Expanded capacity without increasing workers
- Reduced congestion in existing facility
- Safe workplace
- No interruption of operations during installation
- Easily expandable to fulfill peak capacity needs until 2020



cases per month without adding workers and without impeding current operations. This new piece of the operation specifically handles overstock used to replenish the product being picked for outgoing orders and covers the DABC during peak season without clogging aisles and creating inventory headaches.

Daifuku America, a Daifuku company, provided the equipment and the know-how to get the new facility up and running. The new rack supported building contains 6,160 pallet locations in five aisles of Unit Load AS/RS that are each over 100 feet in height. About 650 feet of transportation conveyor, Daifuku America's control system and Warehouse RX® WMS that communicates with their current host system makes up the overstock facility,

Product is received by the DABCA on log grade (shipping) pallets via truck loads. Shipping pallets are exchanged with plastic, captive pallets. Product is scanned into the DABC host system via handheld RF scanners and diverted to the picking area or to the new overstock area. The overstock area holds product that is not immediately needed to fill orders and will be used to replenish inventory as it is needed to cover peaks in demand.

Pallets that meet size requirements are transported to the Unit Load AS/RS input where they are identified and stored. Warehouse RX® then reports back to the DABC host system that the pallet was received and stored.

The DABC host system calls for pallets as they are needed to fill orders. It communicates the type and amount of product needed to the Warehouse RX® system, which automatically pulls the pallets necessary to fill the order and conveys them to output stations. Pallets then are taken via fork truck to the picking area where the product is used to fill orders to retailers.

The Unit Load AS/RS systems is designed to handle storage capacity until the year 2010, but can be easily expanded to meet the year 2020 expectations without interrupting<sup>1</sup> operations.

With the new overstock area being entirely automated there is little chance for damage to product, injury to workers or interruptions in process flow. It has helped alleviate significant congestion in the DABC operation and has created a more safe and efficient workplace. Daifuku America and Utah's Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control have created a system to quickly, efficiently and cost-effectively deliver alcoholic beverages to retailers throughout the state.

