

Flat, Small and Flyer Sortation for Post and Parcel Operators

Efficient data capture and sortation - hands-free

Task

Efficient barcode reading for sortation

Flats, smalls and flyers are sorted manually at manual workstations by routing region and zip code in mail distribution centers. Fast and error-free sortation allows postal operators to deliver the consignment as quickly as possible.

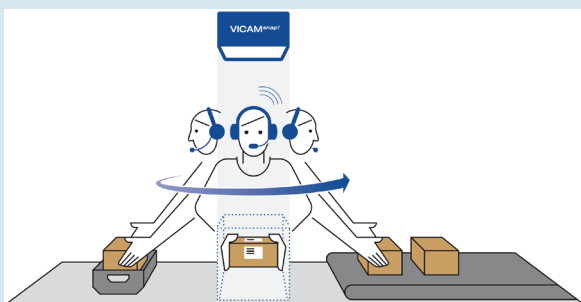
Implementation

The solution? A camera-based identification system that captures barcodes or 2D codes on flats, smalls and flyers automatically and gives proper instructions for sortation to the user via optical and audible feedback.

The camera-based reading system VICAM^{snap!} is installed above a manual workstation. The flats, smalls and flyers are moved quickly through the reading field of the camera by the operator. The capture is continuous and fully automatic. Manual triggering is not required - therefore the operator has both hands free for handling the items.

Every barcode is captured, regardless of the position or rotation of the barcode - even damaged codes. The captured barcode leads to a signal for the operator - the correct shelf or container in which the mail piece needs to be sorted, is displayed. As an option, audio feedback is possible, i.e. the operator obtains the announcement „box 1“.

The image of the captured mail piece is archived and can be used for tracking, i.e. for consignments that have not reached their destination.



Benefit

More efficiency and productivity at sortation

By using VICAM^{snap!} post and parcel operators benefit from the following:

- error-free, manual sorting of mail pieces
- higher productivity of the employees - the system allows handling with both hands and therefore increases throughput
- save data archiving for tracking of consignments
- compact and lightweight device for easy installation and fast and productive operation
- ergonomic working conditions for the operator
- camera-based technology provides higher read rates than conventional laser scanners
- white LED illumination allows the reading of red and colored codes

Applications

VICAM^{snap!} is the multi-code reader for camera-based data capture for:

- manual sortation of flats, smalls, flyers
- data capture at inbound inspection
- handling of returns
- order picking of consignments
- order verification at outbound inspection

Technical Data

System	VICAM ^{snap!} High-performance matrix camera	Illumination	Ergonomic LED illumination with white light
Read area	310 mm x 260 mm x 300 mm at 200 dpi with standard lens	Hardware/interface	FTP or TCP / IP
Resolution:	5 megapixels, 10 images/second		