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Preface

One obligatory part of the curriculum of the master Mechanical Engineering at the University of Twente is an internship. The main goal of the internship is to gain practical experience of an engineers' future profession and is preferably carried out abroad. The sad part of going abroad is that one has to leave after a fixed period of time. The main goal of this report is therefore to transfer my findings to possible successors.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to thank a few people. Marcel Andela, thanks for making it possible to go abroad. I feel really blessed that I got the opportunity to have an amazing time abroad, in perspective of experiencing both SCA and Sweden. Josefine Walker, thanks for being my mentor and for sharing your personal experiences as a female mechanical engineer. The FIX IT project team, especially Jonas Rosberg and Mikael Molander, thanks for providing me with so much input. Lastly, the rest of the Falkenberg plant, especially, Frida Kronquist, Martin Jakobsen, the blue shift and the running crew, thanks for making my time in Sweden unforgettable.



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Definitions

BCT	Box Crash Test
CON	Consumer Unit or primary packaging; also referred to as 'bag'.
DOM	Daily Operating Meeting
ETM	European Technical Manager
IDC	International Distribution Centre

- QAS Quality Attribute Sheet
- SAP Systems, Applications & Product; enterprise management system
- SOP Standard Operating Procedure
- SRU Shelf-Ready Unit; secondary packaging for consumer use.
- TRP Transport Pack or secondary packaging; also referred to as 'box' or 'carton'.
- ULV Code to define the pallet type and height.





Summary

Project FIX IT started in April 2014 in the Hoogezand plant in the Netherlands. The main goal of the project is to optimize the supply chain of the transport package. There are three reasons (Glauner, 2014) for improving this supply chain namely safety, image/reputation and costs. The problem is divided in three areas in which different members of the project team work with. The areas of interest are design, internal handling and external transport. This report describes the findings on the internal handling of the transport package.

The current information flow of the transport package was mapped in order to define a focus area and find any available data. It was found that there is very little data available on aspects related to the quality of the transport package between production and the customer. The focus areas for improvement in internal handling are therefore chosen to be the information flow between palletizing and production and the information flow within the warehouse.

To improve the information flow between palletizing and production an internal complaint system was designed. This internal complaint system standardizes the communication between warehouse and machine operators. By coupling a complaint code to common problems data is logged when warehouse operators complain about the problem to production. Using the complaint database, problems can be related to a specific production line or shift, to start problem solving systematically. The implementation of the complaint system was paired with the use of visual control checklists. These visual control checklists display a picture and a description of the common problems, a picture of what it should look like and the corresponding defect code.

To improve the information flow within the warehouse the current databases were analyzed. It was found that many human errors are made as most of the information transfers and calculations are done manually. A start was made with setting the standards by making a calculator for choosing a palletizing program.

For successive research and improvement a number of recommendations are made. The recommendations boil down to two things: generate data and improve communication. Data generation can be reached by extending the standardization in complaint communication between the warehouses and other plants. By measuring the current process capability data must be generated as well. To improve the communication SAP should be used more efficiently and knowledge must be shared.

Key words: transport package, box, palletizing, visual control, information flow, supply chain



1 Introduction

Svenska Cellulosa Aktiebolaget, rather known as SCA, is a global hygiene and forest products company. The Falkenberg plant falls within the division Product Supply of Consumer Goods Europe. The plant produces incontinence and baby diapers.

1.1 Project FIX IT

Project FIX IT started in April 2014 in the Hoogezand plant in the Netherlands. The main goal of the project is to optimize the supply chain of the transport package. The transport package is the carton in which the bags filled with diapers are palletized. The supply chain of the transport package can be found in Figure 1.



Figure 1 Supply chain of the transport package. Adapted from: pacproject (Glauner, 2014).

There are three reasons (Glauner, 2014) for improving the supply chain of the transport package. The safety aspect is the first. Some pallets are stacked up to a height of 2.9 m. It happens that these pallets collapse during warehouse handling. This is not a safe working environment as the total weight of such pallet can be up to 350 kg. Secondly, there is the image or reputation of the company. Hygiene products should be sold in clean and intact packaging, not containing any damage. Lastly, there is the aspect of costs. Damaged products cannot be sold and repacking brings in unnecessary extra costs. Even the slightest overlap of a carton on a pallet can cause the whole pallet to be sent back at the end of supply chain. This is due to the fact that automated order picking cannot be done with overlapping pallets. An example of a poorly and a properly stacked pallet can be found in Figure 2.





Figure 2 Examples of a poorly (left) and properly (right) stacked pallet.

1.2 Process flow of the transport package

To get insight in how the transport package is handled in the Falkenberg plant a detailed process flow is presented in this section. The process flow is mainly focused on the internal transport. The transport is considered as internal as soon as it crosses the terminal of the raw material warehouse. The transport from the supplier to the terminal can therefore be considered as external. The supplier is responsible for delivering the materials as agreed to.



The responsibility for the material is transferred from the supplier to SCA at the terminal. The materials are transported with a forklift truck into the raw materials warehouse for storage. When the products are needed for production they are transported from the raw materials warehouse to the pickup point for AGVs. Thereafter they are transported with an AGV to production. A general overview of the process flow from production to the customer can be found in Figure 3.



Figure 3 General process flow of a transport package. Adapted from: Markus Andersson.

More detailed process flows within production, palletizing, warehousing and external transport can be found in the following sections.

1.2.1 Production

The process flow of the transport package within production is depicted in Figure 4.



Figure 4 Process flow of transport package within production. Adapted from: Emma Svenbrant.

After the boxes are transported to the second floor by the elevator they are placed on a roller belt for transportation. The roller belts are depicted as the nine vertical lines in the bottom of Figure 5. The white numbers correspond with the machine numbers. The responsibility for the transport on the roller belts lies within production. The collector belts are depicted as the three horizontal lines in the top of Figure 5. Once the boxes arrive on the collector belt the responsibility is transferred to palletizing.



Figure 5 Transport from production to the collector belt.



1.2.2 Palletizing

Once the transport packages arrive on the collector belt the responsibility lies within palletization. Under normal conditions the products of machine 1, 2, 3 and 4 are palletized on palletizer 1. The products of machine 5, 7 and 9 are palletized on palletizer 2. Products of machine 11 and 12 are usually handled by palletizer 3. The two big squares in Figure 6 are called dividers. The dividers make it possible to change collector belt and subsequently palletizer. After the three palletizers there are only two wrappers.



Figure 6 Transport on the collector belt to the palletizing area.

The process of palletizing of the transport package is depicted in Figure 7. After wrapping the pallets are dated and provided with a pallet flag. A conveyor belt transports the loaded pallets to one of the ten output lanes where they can be picked up by warehouse personnel.



Figure 7 Process flow of transport package within palletizing. Adapted from: Charles El Hajj.



1.2.3 Warehousing & external transport

The pallets are picked up by the warehouse personnel with a forklift truck to place them in one of the racking of the finished goods warehouse. The warehouse also serves as an international distribution center which means that finished goods of other plants are stored in the racking as well. A brief overview of the process flow is given in Figure 8. The responsibility for the products is transferred from SCA to the transport company at the terminal. The process flow stops after the pallets are placed in the truck. This is because the handling from that point depends on the destination of the goods. The shortest route possible is when the pallets are transported to an external warehouse, whereas the longest route is to customers in Asia. Depending on the destination, transport can be done by truck, train, ferry or cargo ship.



Figure 8 Process flow of transport package within warehouse and external transport. Adapted from: Markus Andersson.

1.3 How big is the problem?

It is difficult to say how big the problem is, one can only guess. A measure for the size of the problem is the number of received complaints. When a pallet with crushed or damaged boxes arrives at a customer a complaint can be made to the sending plant. An overview of the received complaints per plant can be found in Table 1.

	Hoogezand	Olawa	Veniov	Falkenberg
Crushed boxes	6+4+1=11	88 + 8 + 7 = 103	0	58
Others packaging	38 + 1 = 39	114 + 18 + 1 = 133	2	78
Table 1 Received complaints per plant for Baby Pants & Baby Open products from all over the world.				

One must note that it differs per customer how the complaints are treated. First of all a complaint can be classified as service or product. Next to that a complaint can concern a box or a pallet. For example a collapsing pallet can cause 12 crushed boxes, but probably it is logged as one complaint. This complaint can end up being notified in production, while the root cause was in the sending warehouse. It therefore unknown if a complaint about a collapsed pallet is noted under 'Crushed boxes' or 'Others packaging'. Besides differences in the way customers treat complaints, some customers do not even make a complaint at all.

Improving the supply chain of the transport package is quite a big task. Therefore section 2.1 divides the task in several focus areas. To gain more insight in the focus area of the Falkenberg plant in section 2.2 a detailed information flow of the transport package is presented. This information flow is used to find out where improvements can be made. Chapter 3 describes how improvements are going to be made. Chapter 4 will cover the results and depending on time chapter 5 will cover a different amount of recommendations.



2 Problem description

The objectives of project FIX IT as set by the sponsor are the following:

- 1) Implement pack specifications and mandatory parameters
- 2) Design packs with relevant strength and stability requirements
- 3) Insure packaging suppliers follow global supplier standards
- 4) Activate the pack complaint system and quality assurance processes
- 5) Set stretch filming operation protocols
- 6) Standardize palletization and warehousing procedures
- 7) Up skill and recruit packaging technical expertise

How these objectives are going to be reached differs per plant. In a previous roll-out Libero products to Veniov in Russia were chosen as a worst case scenario. The supply chain of these specific products was analyzed to find any possible improvements. However, products shipped to Veniov are not necessarily the worst case scenario for the Falkenberg plant. Another approach can therefore be more useful in this case. As optimizing a supply chain is a big task with many different aspects and interests, the problem is divided in more bite-size pieces.

2.1 Division of the problem

Three focus areas are distinguished for the supply chain optimization. The main focus of this report will be on improving the internal handling of the transport package (section 2.1.2). However, for clarity the other focus areas and their stakeholders are described as well.

2.1.1 Design

The design of the boxes is mainly handled within: Consumer Goods Europe – Market & Business Development – European Product Assortment. Objectives to work with are 1), 2), 3) and 7). Aspects of interest can be for example board grade, box features such as handles and perforated creases, box dimensions, et cetera.

People involved	
Project team:	
	Packaging Baby – Branded
	Packaging Baby – Retail
CONFIDENTIAL	Business Process Engineer
CONTRA	Board supplier
	Board supplier
Others:	
	Master Data Coordinator
	Table 2 People involved in design of the box.





2.1.2 Internal handling

Internal handling of the transport package includes all aspects within the Falkenberg plant. As described in the introduction the process can be subdivided in production, palletizing and warehousing. Aspects of interest can be all the steps in the process flow, but as well handling of operators. The objectives to work with are 4), 5) and 6). To get more insight in the internal processes within the plant, the current information flow is presented in section 2.2.

People involved	
Project team:	
	Logistics manager
	Finished Warehouse Palletizer manager
	Quality manager
Others:	
IN ITIAL	Capability Support IT
CONFIDENTIAL	Project Engineer
	Quality administrator
	Line Manager F7 (Production quality)
	Mechanical Specialist Palletizer
	Mechanical Palletizer
	Materialoperator (Palletizer 1)
	Process Engineer (Palletizer 2)
	Table 3 People involved in internal handling of the box.

2.1.3 External transport

The conditions under transport are known to have major influence on pallet stability (Glauner, 2014). Conditions of interest can be for example encountered dynamic or static force, humidity and temperature during transport. The transport of the boxes can take from 1 day up to 3 weeks. The pallet can be handled with a fork lift up to 15 times before arriving at the customer. To design and palletize a box which is sufficient for transport more information on the transport conditions is needed. The objectives to work with are 1), 2) and 7).

People involved:	
Project team	
	R&D Engineer
CONFIDENTIAL	R&D Engineer
	Table 4 People involved in external transport of the box.



2.2 Current information flow

In order to improve the supply chain of the transport package, information between design, handling and transport must be shared. Currently there is very little feedback from the status of the TRP at the customer to design and handling. There is as well very little information shared between handling and design. To find out which information is available on handling the box, the current internal information flow of the transport package is mapped.

In Figure 9 on page 13 the current information flow of the transport package in presented. In this map the physical process is placed in the middle. The information flow via different programs, systems and databases is placed around it. A description of the concepts used in the information flow is given in Table 5.

The information flow is mapped in order to get insight in where and which information is stored in terms of the quality of the box and the pallet. A positive side effect of mapping the process is that it is identified who has access to which database and who is responsible for the contents.

Concept	Description	
COMMANDER	Internal communication system; is used to store and share information on blockings and safety issues.	
Mectec	System used for creating the pallet flag. Contains the article number, product description, EAN13-code, ULV, TRP/pallet, pallet weight, pallet height and box weight.	
OCME	Palletizing management system; is used for schedule internal logistics. Contains the article number, ULV, product description, train size, palletizing program, wrapping program, information for collector belt, second train size and number of photo cell corresponding to train length.	
PLAIN	Production management system.	
QMS	Quality Management System.	
SAP AP1	Section of SAP in which article specifications can be found. Contains for example article number, article description, pack information (target outside length and width), type of pallet, maximum load length, maximum load width and TRP/layer.	
SAP LP2	Section of SAP in which complaints are managed.	
SAP WP1	Section of SAP in which the warehouse is managed. Also referred to as Warehouse Management System (WMS).	
	Table 5 Overview of concepts used in information storage.	







Figure 9 Current internal information flow of the transport package.



3 Planning & methodology

Looking at the current information flow in Figure 9, the only available data on the transport packages comes from the service complaints. However, as said in section 1.3, this data is difficult to interpret. Before proceeding to making any adjustments, the baseline of the problem must be found. An easy way to get insight in the size and types of problems is by making use of an internal complaint system. Two types of internal complaint systems can be of interest:

- one for boxes between palletizing and production,
- one for pallets between the warehouse and palletizing.

Both systems and their implementation will be treated in section 3.1. The initial focus is to develop the internal complaint system for the boxes. Besides logging the occuring problems, another way of looking at the process is by measuring its capability. Suggestions on how and what to measure are made in section 3.2.

3.1 Internal complaint system

To checkup the quality of the boxes and pallets other plants currently make use of a so-called box and pallet check. It is a document which displays pictures of both the 'good' and 'bad' status of common problems. The document is a form of visual process control. Visual controls can help to quickly identify abnormal conditions, display standardized methods in use and display the status of all elements critical to safe and effective operations (George, Rowlands, Price, & Maxey, 2005). The use of a complaint system will go hand in hand with the use of this form of visual process controls. The box or pallet check is also referred to as quality attribute sheet or standard operating procedure (SOP) by different stakeholders. For use with the internal complaint system in addition to a picture of the 'bad' status a defect code is provided. In this way it is easy to address a specific code to an occurring problem. The name visual control checklist is chosen for use within the Falkenberg plant to avoid misunderstandings which document it considers. A sample of the visual control checklist is beneficial for the awareness of quality. Every time an operator searches for a defect code on the list it gets reminded on what the box or pallet should look like.

The visual control checklist can be kept both physical and digital. Both options have their disadvantages. A physical visual control checklist is hard to keep up to date. However a digital checklist is less hands-on and can be less easily accessible. Both the complaint system and control checklists are designed in English. However, for more simple use the final system and checklist should be translated to Swedish.

3.1.1 Boxes: visual control & coding

The visual control checklist for the boxes should answer the following questions in one view:

- What does a 'good' box look like? Hence, what is the standard?
- What does a 'bad' box look like? Hence, what are common problems?
- What is the defect code corresponding to a box that does not look good?

In order to make the visual control checklist and coding, it must be defined what is 'good'. This can be done by questioning different stakeholders. Stakeholders of interest are the quality department, article owners, suppliers, mechanics, line managers and machine operators. Visual control checklists used in other plants can be used as input. Pictures of boxes specified as both good and bad must be collected as a reference. By analyzing the boxes that enter the palletizing area the most common problems can be found. After this is done the problems must be sorted to present a structured way of coding the box. Any existing defect coding systems, for example the ones for customer and service complaints must be taken into account.

3.1.2 Pallet: visual control & coding

The visual control checklist for the pallet should answer the following questions in one view:

- What does a 'good' pallet look like?
- What does a 'bad' pallet look like?
- What is the defect code corresponding to a pallet that does not look good?

Again, at first a 'good' pallet must be defined. Just as for the box there is very little information available on the current status of the pallets. The definition of good must be found by questioning stakeholders again. Stakeholders of interest are the distribution department, palletizing operators, palletizing mechanics and the quality department. It must be noted that the internal warehouse is an IDC. This means that the warehouse contains products palletized in other factories as well. Complaints for products from other factories are handled in the SAP system. The existing coding



system used for these complaints must therefore be taken into account. The visual control checklist used in other plants can be again be used as a reference.

3.1.3 Implementation of the box complaint system

For successful implementation all stakeholders must be found and involved. By involving stakeholders in developing the complaint system existing knowledge can be found and used. The other way around knowledge gaps can be found as well. For example the warehouse operators must know where they can find the visual control checklist and how they should make a complaint. On the other side the machine operator should know where to find the visual control checklist as well.

What is probably even more important than sufficient knowledge is morale. The operators in both palletizing and products should actually use the complaint system. However, nobody wants to do extra work. The complaint system is therefore described as a tool to ease the communication between machine and warehouse operators. Nowadays a phone call is made to production when palletizing finds a 'bad box'. It is often quite difficult to give an exact description of the damage. As common problems are now linked to a defect code it will be easier to communicate between palletizing and production.

The complaint system starts with a pilot on production line 7. Palletizing operators will be able to put in the complaints for all production lines, but only line 7 will actually receive the complaints. After one month the teething troubles can be overcome and the complaint system can be rolled out to the other production lines as well.

Palletizing	Production	Line managers
 Make complaint: in DOM-rapport 	 Receive complaint: in DOM-rapport 	 Receive complaint: in AVD DOM
 call to production 	 call from palletizing Handle complaint 	Follow up complaint
	Sign off complaint	Sign off complaint

Table 6 Tasks & responsiblities in using the box complaint system.

Besides the people who are going to use the complaint system, there are still some tasks left behind the scene. The defect codes, visual control checklist and database must be updated and handled as well. In the current business structure the most logical place to position these tasks is within the quality department.

3.2 Current process capability

The complaint system between palletizing and production is implemented to get insight in which and how often problems occur. Doing a capability analysis is another way of looking at the production and palletizing processes. However, both the complaint database and the process capability are closely related. In order to find the current capability the existing process flow of the TRP as presented in section 1.2 is followed. The input of the process is the unfolded box, whereas the output is the stacked pallet in the warehouse.

3.2.1 Box

To start with the assumption is made that there is no damage created between the gate of the raw material warehouse and the case packer in the production line. When it comes to the case packer itself, a lot of things can go wrong. Using the complaint database, problems can hopefully be related to a specific production line or shift. This will create some insight in where to start with problem solving.

A start is made with describing what can go wrong when handling the case packer. It is possible that machine operators sometimes do not log it when they make small adjustments to the case packer. To understand the occurring problems, this information is of big importance. For example, if one of the shifts consequently does not log their changes it might be that the subsequent shift changes the setting back to the original. Secondly, if specific damage is present on each box it might be related to a certain production step using the complaint database. If the same damage is reoccurring after the problem is solved, something else might be the root cause. Lastly, if the complaint database is coupled to the quality database it might relate problems to the interior of the box. The average dimensions of the primary pack can have major influence on the successive process steps is. This average dimension is known to differ per production line or even per day the product is produced. A primary pack which is too big can cause the box to bulge. Another known problem related to the inside of the box is the gluing of the top flaps. If the primary pack is too small there will be too much headspace. This will cause difficulties when gluing, as there is no resistance of the flaps to put sufficient pressure on the glue.



To find problems related to the successive step of palletizing the general information on the boxes used in the plant is more important. For example it must be found how many different box sizes are used and what these dimensions are. If the dimensions are know it can be checked if each article is stacked with a suitable program. The definition of a suitable program must be found as well. Another aspect of interest is if full printed boxes give more problems. The ink on the SRU packages gives them another friction coefficient which was noted to give more problems when palletizing.

3.2.2 Palletizing

The pallet is the base for the palletizing process. The dimensions of the pallet are therefore of large interest for the successive steps. To start with the height of the pallets is taken to be 150 mm. A large deviation from this height might influence the wrapping process as the wrapping does not start where it is supposed to be. The length and width of a euro pallet is taken to be 800 mm x 1200 mm. However it was noted that euro pallets are on average 795 mm x 1195 mm (Adelbäck, 2014). This might influence the alignment in the palletizer. It is therefore recommended to have palletizing patterns with a 10 mm tolerance on each side (Glauner, 2014). The recommended pattern dimensions are therefore 780 mm x 1180 mm for euro and 980 mm x 1180 mm for iso. Patterns which are outside this recommended dimensions are propable to cause overhang. When measuring the overhang of the boxes the actual dimensions of the pallet must be taken into account. Hence, the pallet size can not be taken as a reference.

The quality of the pallet itself is difficult to check. A good pallet cannot miss any stringers or deck boards, and cannot contain any loose splinters or nails. Loose nail for example impedes the horizontal alignment necessary for perfect stacking. The pallets are inserted to the palletizer as a stack. To ensure the quality of each pallet they should be handled and checked one by one.

There are 3 different palletizers. Palletizer 2 and 3 are similar, whereas palletizer 1 is completely different. Currently there are 32 different palletizing programs. Not ever program is available on every palletizer. When a new article is going to be produced it is entered in OCME and coupled to a palletizing program manually. There is no standard routine for coupling article dimensions to a program. There is no specified maximum difference between the recommened box dimensions of a palletizing program and the article dimensions. The current palletizing programs must be analyzed. It must be found if all the programs are in use, if not there might be room for some changes. To recommend any changes it must be known which parameters can be controlled in both the software and hardware

One measure to define a good palletizer or palletizing program is the relation to amount of service complaints. However, the 140 received complaints this year might be too few to find an existing relation. Another way to compare the palletizers is by using one program and article which can be run on all 3 palletizers within the same shift. In that way a testplan can be set up which rules out a few factors.

3.2.3 Wrapping

After palletizing the wrapping is applied. There are multiple wrapping programs. Each program has a version on 70% and 100% of the maximum speed. It must be found if the wrapping is applied in the right amount and if it does deliver the right tension. If possible any deviations in the applied wrapping must be related to a wrapper or a wrapping program. Some wrapping programs should combine the pallet and the load. In all the cases the wrapping should be applied up to the top load. It must be checked for each program if the wrapping starts an ends at the right heights.

The wrapping has a big influence on the alignment of the stacked boxes. After the pallet is wrapped in the right way it settles the boxes in each layer. The misalignment of the boxes must therefore be measured after wrapping. It is very important that the boxes of the pallet are aligned as misalignment can reduce the strength of the boxes up to 45% (DS Smith Packaging, 2014). The accuracy of alignment when palletizing is therefore an important input parameter for the design of a new transport package.

It is difficult to measure the alignment of the boxes to find the inaccuracy of the palletizer. For example with a program of 6 boxes per layer, each layer can shift in both x- and y-direction. Next to that a layer can rotated as a whole. It is assumed that the boxes cannot rotate as there are blocked by the surrounding boxes. However each box can shift in both the x- and the y-direction. A graphical representation of the described movements can be found in Figure 10. All these different movements per layer make it difficult to define the inaccuracy per layer of palletizing. To measure the inaccuracy of the palletizer a standard method must be defined which is quick and easy to use. In other plants a contour scanner is used to measure the overhang of each the pallet. This might be considered for use in Falkenberg as well. However, this method will not give the inaccuracy per layer as a contour scan will not be able to make a difference between the certain types of movement.





3.2.4 Transport

The transport between production and palletizing is assumed to create no damage. When something go wrong within the palletizer the whole stack of boxes can fall over. If this happends a lot of extra damage occurs. The transport between the palletizer and the wrapper looks quite dangerous. In that transport the pallets moves and makes several stops without having the wrapping applied yet. Especially when the stack is very high the top boxes can make large movements. This creates a torque on the bottom layer of boxes.

The transport between wrapper and the warehouse is of interest as well. Forklifts can cause major damage to the bottom layer of the boxes. This transport is the moment when warehouse operators should be aware of the poorly stacked pallets. Any existing information on the operators who do the transport must be found.



4 Results

The obtained results can be found in this section. Following the structure of the Planning & methodology first the results on the on the internal complaint system are described. Thereafter the findings on the process capability can be found in section 4.2.

4.1 Internal complaint system

To setup the defect codes for the complaint system, first the existing coding systems were examined. The existing codes considering the box can be found in Table 7.

Code	Description	Code	Description
735	Box color rub off	760	Box not sealed correctly
741	Production code missing/not readable, box	765	Bag missing in box
755	Box dirty	785	Crushed boxes
		•	

Table 7 Exisiting defect codes considering the box.

When the common problems were mapped it was concluded that the existing codes do not cover the specific damage. Therefore a new coding system is designed. A four digit number is taken for the internal complaint so that it is easy to distinguish from the external complaints. Making the new coding completely different from the existing coding gives room for the coding system to become a living document. Complaints can easily be added or removed to the needs of the investigation.

The internal complaint system will be accessible through the DOM-rapport. When a complaint is made the window as displayed in Figure 11 will pop up. The system logs the production line (Maskin), article number (ArtNo), complaint type (Felenhet), complaint code (Felkod), number of occurrences (Antal), the time (Tid) and if wanted some comments (Kommantar). When the production line is entered a coupling with PLAIN is made which makes the running article available for selection. The complaint type can be either production or palletizing. Once one of the two is entered the corresponding defect codes become available. The designed defect coding system for production is presented in section 4.1.1. The defect coding system for palletizing is presented in section 4.1.2.



Figure 11 Screenshots of the complaint entry.

As a complaint is made to production the operators will receive the complaint as soon as they update the DOM-rapport. In the current workflow a call is made when palletizing has problems with boxes from a specific line. In the new flow this call must still be made to ensure the operators update the DOM-rapport and see the complaint. When a complaint is made for palletizing it should stay in the warehouse and should not go to production. The two databases should be separated, however the part of the complaint system for palletizing is still under construction.



4.1.1 Boxes: visual control & coding

The common problems related to boxes found in the Falkenberg plant are presented in Table 8.

Group	Code	Code description	Common problems
Closing	2100	Gap between box flaps	Top or bottom flaps should be connected in parallel with a target distance of 0 mm and a tolerance of <10 mm.
	2101	Misaligned box flaps	Top or bottom flaps can be misaligned or protruding. There is no target or tolerance set.
	2102	Box not properly closed	Top flaps can be not closed, folded or overlapping.
Gluing/taping	2110	Box not properly taped	Tape can be broken, misplaced or missing. Boxes can be taped together.
	2111	Glue visible	Glue should not be visible.
	2112	Missing glue strings	Glue position is defined in FGI-2215: it should not touch the bags and 4 strings should be applied.
Shape	2200	Bulgy box	Bags, or diapers, are too big for the box.
	2201	Perforation is broken	Perforation should be intact.
	2202	Box dimension out of specification	Box should be dimensioned according to the article specification.
Damage	2210	Box is damaged	Box contains scratches, impressions, creases, torns, folds, crinkles or bulgdy corners.
Coding	2300	Coding is defective	Coding should be readable and printed in one line.
	(741)		Coding should be correct: day/month/year/factory/machine/hour/minute.
			For SRU boxes the placement should be according to DMS*44840. The coding should not be placed over any other pre-printed graphics.
Others	2901	Bags are misaligned	Bags are tilted 90° making it hard to close and palletize the box.
	2902 (765)	Bags are missing	Does this happen often? Cover under 2901?
	2999	Boxes, others	If other problems occur they can be specified in the comment.

Table 8 Complaint codes for production.

The visual control checklist corresponding to the presented coding system can be found in Appendix B.1. Some problems described might not seem very severe when they occur in production, but can cause major problems later on in the supply chain. An example of an innocent scratch on the box and the results after warehouse storing can be found in Figure 12. The damage gives a cheap appearance. What is more critical is that a hinged side can cause the total pallet to collapse as it starts hanging to one side.



pero wborn @ Jasspos 5566-01 []

Before storage

After storage

Figure 12 Damage on a box and possible result after warehouse storage.



4.1.2 Pallet: visual control & coding

When it comes to the complaint system between the warehouse and palletizing the implementation is somewhat more difficult. It is not so easy for a fork lift truck driver to make a complaint as they do not have permanent access to a computer. The use of a complaint system should not be an extra task and should not cost extra time. It will be difficult to make warehouse operators more aware of a 'good' stacked pallet as they have to control their own work. Anyway, the coding system and visual control checklist were made to give insight in the common problems. From now on a start with the implementation can be made. The visual control checklist corresponding to the coding system (Table 9) can be found in Appendix B.2.

Group	Code	Code description	Common problems
Boxes	3100	Turned/tilted boxes on pallet	Boxes can turn or tilt during palletizing.
	3101 (785)	Crushed boxes on pallet	Bottom boxes can collapse under their load.
	3102	Concave boxes on pallet	A wrapping whichs is too thight will make the boxes concave.
	3110	Too much space between boxes	The compression of the palletizing program is too little.
	3120 (755)	Box is dirty	Boxes are covered in dust in case of long warehouse storage.
Pallet	3200	Pallet is defective	The pallet may miss stringers or deckboard. Protruding nails are also not allowed.
Overhang	3300	Pallet contains overhang	Overhang can be created by: poor centering, poor pallet fit, poor stacking, protruding boxes or tilting.
Wrapping	3400	Pallet contains loose wrapping film	Loose wrapping can cause overhang as well.
	3401	Pallet is wrapped with insufficient tension	Insufficient tension cause instable pallets.
Coding	3500	Incorrect coding	EAN, SSCC or other codes can be printed incorrect.
	3510	Pallet flag is missing	The pallet flag is not applied.
Others	3900	No suitable palletizing program	For new articles no suitable program is available sometimes.
	3999	Pallets, others	If other problems occur they can be specified in the comment.

Table 9 Complaint codes for palletizing.



4.2 Current process capability

To start with it was checked if there were suitable programs for all the different box types specified in SAP. Based on the experience of the palletizer personel a program is considered as suitable when the difference between the recommended box dimensions and the actual dimensions is not more than 10 mm. The result of using too little or too much compression when palletizing are displayed in Figure 13.





15 mm too much

Figure 13 A box of 390 mm x 375 mm palletized with too little or too much compression.

The check for suitable programs was made by comparing the OCME database, production forecast and SAP article specifications. It was found that there was no suitable program for a number of articles. An overview of the box dimensions with suitable program can be found in Appendix A.1. Based on the program usage a recommendation was made to do some changes in the palletizing programs. Only 3 of the current palletizing programs meet the recommended tolerance of 10 mm on each side. No changes can be made to meet these tolerances as there are no other options for the boxes to be palletized.

The way of choosing a palletizing program is standardized by using a 'calculator'. Previously the program was chosen by searching in a list with the programs sorted from 1 to 32. This caused unnecessary errors. By filling in the pallet type, number of boxes per layer, box length and box width the best program is chosen automatically. When there is no suitable program found an error pops up. The calculator makes use of a list with the dimensions of the current palletizing programs. Somebody should be responsible for keeping the calculator up to date.

Input: Pallet type: Euro TRPs/layer: 6	Pallet type	TRPs/layer	Box length	Box width	Program	Pallet type check	TRPs/layer check	Box length check	Box width check	Program check
Box length: 385 mm	Euro	4	530	395	1, 14*	ОК	NOK	ОК	ОК	NOK
Box width: 355 mm	Euro	4	600	400	3, 15*	ОК	NOK	ОК	ОК	NOK
	Euro	6	390	360	16	ОК	ОК	ОК	ОК	ОК
	Euro	6	400	400	9	ОК	ОК	ОК	ОК	ОК
Post pallotizo program:	Euro	6	520	266	8	ОК	ОК	ОК	NOK	NOK
best panetize program.	Euro	6	523	278	2	ОК	ОК	ОК	NOK	NOK
16	Euro	6	600	250	12	ОК	ОК	ОК	NOK	NOK
	Euro	6	600	266	7	ОК	ОК	ОК	NOK	NOK
	Euro	7	451	266	5	ОК	NOK	ОК	NOK	NOK

User interface

Logicals behind calculator

Figure 14 Screenshots of the palletizing program calculator.

It must be pointed out that a clear distinction must be made between a palletizing 'pattern' and 'program'. A program is a pattern specified for certain box dimensions. The palletizer compresses the boxes to a specified maximum box dimension which is displayed on the program list. If boxes are bigger than this certain dimension the palletizer over compresses the boxes. This can cause the perforations to break, the flaps to open or the box to damage. During the analysis it was found that a few dimensions or patterns were displayed wrongly in the list. This was propably due to the



fact that nobody was responsible for keeping the document with palletizing programs up to date. Somebody should be responsible for keeping this document up to date. This can be reached by checking in the document in the digital library. The up-to-date list can be found in the library by other stakeholders, such as the business process engineers and can subsequently be send to the article owners.

The list with palletizing programs is sorted in a different way to create a clearer overview of the available programs. The programs are sorted on number of TRPs/layer or box length instead program number. This makes it easier to find the program by hand and as well as to keep the calculator up to date.

Next to entering the program manually it was found that the warehouse personell does the calculations for the pallet height (ULV) and splitt key (number of ULVs) by hand. This causes unnecessary errors as not everybody has the knowledge to do it correctly.

For the wrapper it was found that there are 8 different programs. Program 11, 12, 13 and 14 are the faster versions of program 1, 2, 3 and 4. Program 1 and 11 are only used for tests. However, it must be noted that the document might not be up to date. As said in section 3.2.3 the wrapping compensates a little for the inaccuracy of the palletizer. However, it was noted that this does not apply for the bottom layer of the pallet.



5 Recommendations

Project FIX IT has not come to an end, however my internship does. As there are still lots of potential points of improvement, I would like to do some suggestions for further research in this section.

5.1 SAP

If possible I would suggest more efficient use of the SAP system. In the current structure different parts of SAP are not connected: information is transferred manually between different parts of the system. I have a strong feeling that work is done twice because different parts of SAP do not synchronize. It must be made clear which information is put in the system by whom and where it is transferred to other parts of the system. On a short-term I suggest setting-up a standard information flow for adding new articles to the system. In this way it is made clear what all involved responsibilities are and who is in charge of these. To give a practical example, during my stay it took 2 months to find out that nobody was responsible for keeping the document with palletizing patterns up to date. On a long-term perspective I recommend simplifying the information flow for adding new articles. Instead of doing all information transfers manually, the article specifications should be loaded automatically into OCME, Mectec & WMS.

Another case in which SAP can be used more efficiently is in handling complaints. Service complaints between other production sites and their warehouses are handled through SAP. There is no standard set in how and when to make a complaint. However, this feedback after transport is of great importance for improving the quality of the transport packages. I would suggest for the Palletizing Network Personal Care to set a standard in this.

5.2 Internal complaint system

If I could change something in the design of the internal complaint system I would run it through COMMANDER instead of through the DOM-rapport. The information flow of both COMMANDER and the internal complaint system is very similar. Therefore it is not very pratical to run the systems in parallel.



Figure 15 Future implementation of the complaint system.

The current internal complaint system should be extended to the internal warehouse and subsequently the external warehouse. Using the palletizing complaint system a quality check at the ternminal could be realized. In this way it can be declared that damage is not present as the pallets leave Falkenberg. Hence, the quality of a pallet is secured before it leaves a warehouse. I recommend using the same standard in both the internal as well as the external warehouse. However, the use of such complaint system is not possible with the current equipment. The use of a complaint system in the warehouse needs on board computers that can handle Excel in the fork lift trucks. In case of new equipment I would also recommend starting logging who handles a pallet. Currently there is only information available about which forklift placed the pallet in the racking. Logging who is driving the forklift makes the warehouse operator more aware of the fact that he or she has to deliver high quality pallets.

When a complaint is made to production, the machine operators should handle the complaint. To reduce the time it takes to handle a complaint a troubleshoot document could be used. The defect code could be used to point out a specific trouble shoot document. For example, if the glue is visible on a box the code 2111 could refer to a document which describes how to solve this problem. At first it could be tried to change the speed of the conveyor belt at the glue head. If the problem still occurs the glue speed can be changed.

As problems keep occuring machine operators can get frustrated when they receive a complaint and cannot solve it. Some sort of feedback must be given to palletizing that the problem could not be solved and will be followed up later. In the same manner, if the problem is solved palletizing should receive this information as well. To start with gathering data and getting familiar with the complaint system I would recommend to do a check on the boxes once per shift on each line.



5.3 Process capability

The data collection on the process capability should be continued. In section 3.2 a lot of suggestions were made which I was not able to carry out. Based on the increasing production speeds the palletizing area can be a bottleneck for production in the near future. Especially because there are up to 4 production lines connected to a palletizer, this can give quite severe problems. Currently there is very little insight in the timing of the transport, palletizer and warpper. I therefore recommend extending the start made in measuring the lead times of the palletizer.

Nowadays the pallets from palletizer 3 make 4 stops before they reach the wrapper. Two of these stops are waiting for a platform to move down and for the ring of the wrapper to go up. There should be an aim for a more continuous work flow for stacked pallets. Stopping the pallet causes a torque on the bottom layer of boxes. However, the result of these stops is not proven.

Measuring the inaccuracy of the palletizer should be carried out as well. I recommend measuring on the bottom layer of the pallet as this layer is not effected by the wrapping. The bottom layer is of special interest as it is of great importance that the sides of the these cartons are within the pallet. The sides of the carton which are outside of the pallet are likely to be damaged and cannot support the load of the stack. Measuring the overhang on the bottom layer can be done with the same contour scan as used in Hoogezand.

Based on the measurements for both the lead times and the inaccuracy, on the long term there propably will be the need for new equipment. Future palletizers should be able to handle more variation in box dimensons. The compression of a palletizing pattern should be based on the actual box dimensions.

5.4 Knowledge sharing

During the FIX IT project a so-called brief was set up to improve the communication between different stakeholders of the supply chain of the TRP. The current worklfow is a typical example of 'over the wall engineering'. However, it was noted that still during the project there were many communication problems. In the current brief the palletizing pattern is provided as output by the board supplier. However, there is very limited freedom in choosing the patterns. The current brief is, to my opinion, designed with little practical knowledge on palletizing. The knowledge gap between the palletizing pattern on paper and program in real life should be reduced. I would therefore like to recommend a practical training for stakeholders in palletizing. I do think the brief can be an effective tool to improve the communication between different stakeholders in the design of a TRP. However, the brief itself should be setup differently and a standard workflow around it should be created.

I would recommend going on with getting more information on the external transport. There are still many undiscovered factors which can be of influence on the damage present after transport. An interesting topic is the influence of the loading direction of the pallet in combination with the pattern symmetry. What happends with the boxes after they leave the plant is still a very unexplored area. However, the information on the transport is an imporant input to design a box with sufficient strength. When there is more information available on the transport the stacking of an article can be based on its forecast. If the pallet is going to be in a warehouse for a long time or if it is transported by train right after production can give needs for different palletizing patterns. A column pattern gives strength to endure the static forces encountered during transport. A combination of both patterns can be used as well. The wrapping can be based on the forecast as well. For example extra wrapping can be applied for futher transport or to support a lighter board grade. Again this raises the need for better communication.

If Falkenberg is able to deliver perfectly aligned pallets in the future I would recommend doing a tricky test. The filling factor is claimed to be of no influence on the strength of a pallet. However this is doubted by many stakeholders. To test the influence of the filling factor an empty box can be placed in the bottom of the pallet during transport.



6 References

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Appendix A General information

A.1 Overview of box dimensions

Box length (mm)	Box width (mm)	Program	New Program	Box length (mm)	Box width (mm)	Program	New Program
246	236	25		395	298	6	
295	246	22		395	368	NO	\rightarrow 14
295	266	20		395	375	NO	\rightarrow 14
375	260	13		398	238	NO	\rightarrow 11
375	295	NO	none	398	246	30	
389	248	30		398	266	4	
389	295	26		400	390	9	
390	360	16		450	260	5	
390	375	NO	\rightarrow 14	450	264	5	
393	210	17		458	260	NO	\rightarrow 15
395	210	17		466	264	NO	\rightarrow 15
395	250	10		490	264	NO	→ 8
395	260	4		55 ⁸ *	398*	NO	\rightarrow 1
395	266	4		598	266	7	
395	295	6		59 ^{8*}	398*	3	

Table 10 Box length & width, with suitable program. Dimensions with a star are inco products.





A.2 Overview of codes used in pallet characterization

A pallet is denoted with both a letter and a number. This combination is called a ULV. The letter denotes the type of pallet, whereas the number denotes the height of the pallet.

ULV Code	SAP description	General description
Е	EURO PALLET, E	euro pallet, used in exhange
С	EURO PALLET CHEP, C	euro pallet, blue, used in rent
D	ISO PALLET CHEP, D	iso pallet, blue, used in rent
	ISO PALLET IPPL, P	
S	none	euro pallet, heat treated

Table 11 Codes for denoting the type of pallet.

ULV code	Minimum height (mm)	Maximum height (mm)	ULV code	Minimum height (mm)	Maximum height (mm)
09	851	950	19	1851	1950
10	951	1050	20	1951	2050
11	1051	1150	21	2051	2150
12	1151	1250	22	2151	2250
13	1251	1350	23	2251	2350
14	1351	1450	24	2351	2450
15	1451	1550	25	2451	2550
16	1551	1650	26	2551	2650
17	1651	1750	27	2651	2750
18	1751	1850	28	2751	2850

Table 12 Codes for denoting the heigt of a pallet.



Appendix B Internal complaint system

B.1 Visual Control Checklist Box

For the sake of confidentiality any pictures containing retail brands are removed within this appendix.

KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
STÄGNING AV LÅDAN (CLOSING OF THE BOX)			
Flikarna, både toppen och botten, skall vara ihop. Mål: 0mm, tolerans: <10mm Top & bottom flaps must be connected. Target: 0mm, tolerance: <10mm			2100
 Topp- och bottenflikarna MÅSTE vara: centrerade inom kartongen, får INTE sticka ut <i>Top & bottom flaps can NOT be:</i> <i>misaligned</i> <i>protruding</i> 	CONFIDENTIAL		2101



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
			2101
 Kartongerna måste vara ordentligt stängda INGA: öppna flikar invikta flikar (som på bilden) överlappande flikar 			2102
 no open flaps no folded flaps no overlapping flaps 		CONFIDENTIAL	
INGET lim får vara synligt. <i>The glue must NOT be visible.</i>			2111





KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
FORM (SHAPE)			
Lådan får inte vara bulliga.			2200
The box should not be convex or bulgy.		56638-00	
Perforeringen måste vara intakt.			2201
Perforations should be intact.			
SKADA (DAMAGE)			
Lådorna får INTE vara: • repiga • tilltryckta			2110
 The box must NOT contain any: scratches, impressions folds, creases or crinkles 	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	

UNIVERSITY OF TWENTE.



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
			2110
 spricka <i>tears, cracks or rips</i> 		T. C. Beer	2110
bulliga hörnor			2110
bulgy corners		CONFIDENTIAL	
DATUMSTÄMPEL (CODING OF THE BOX)			
 Datumstämpel på lådan måste: korrekt (dag/månad/år/fabrik/maskin/minut) läsbar komplett (hela stämpeln på en låda) The coding on the box should be: correct (day/month/year/factory/machine/hour/minute) readable printed in one line 	CONFIDENTIAL	75 90 56-12 SCA HYGIENE PROD SCA HYGIENE PROD	2300



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
 Datumstämpel på lådan måste vara korrekt placerad: inte överlappa andra tryck 			2300
The coding on the box should be placed correctly:not overlapping any other print		CONFIDENTIAL	
ÖVRIGT (OTHERS)			
Påsar måste vara ställda på samma sida.			2901
Bags must be aligned.		CONFIDENTIAL	
Lådorna, övrigt.	SPECIFICERA REKLAMATION!	SPECIFICERA REKLAMATION!	2999
Boxes, others.	PLEASE SPECIFY COMPLAINT!	PLEASE SPECIFY COMPLAINT!	



B.2 Visual Control Checklist Pallet

KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
BOXES ON PALLET			
No turned or tilted boxes on pallet.	CONFIDENTIAL	CONFIDENTIAL	3100
No crushed boxes on pallet.			3101
		Dero Swborn & Ji Ne 5566-01 [0	3101
No concave boxes on pallet.		CONFIDENTIAL	3102



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
No space between the boxes.			3110
Target: 0mm, tolerance: <10mm		CONFIDENTIAL	
Box can NOT be dirty.		R BB	3120
PALLET			
The pallet may NOT miss any loose stringers or deck boards. The pallet may NOT contain protruding nails.			3200



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
OVERHANG			
The pallet can NOT contain any overhang created: • by tilting			3300
 by poor centering or poor pallet fit 	2466-05 2466-05 2466-05 2466-05 2466-05 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 260 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 250 250 250 260 260 2466-05 240 240 260 260 260 2466-05 240 240 260 260 260	ONE ONE <td>3300</td>	3300
 by poor stacking or protruding boxes 		CONFIDENTIAL	3300
WRAPPING			
The pallet should not contain loose wrapping film.			3400



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
The pallet should be wrapped with sufficient tension.		000	3401
CODING			
The pallet flag is incorrect.	Sca Sca Hygiene Products N# Sca Sca Hygiene Products N# Sca Sta Angelen Products Sta Sca Sta Angelen Products Sta Sta Angelen Products Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta Sta <td></td> <td>3500</td>		3500



KONTROLLERA	BRA	DÅLIG	DEFECT CODE
The pallet flag is missing.	SALA SALAS		3510
OTHERS			
No suitable palletizing program is available.			2900
Pallets, others.	PLEASE SPECIFY COMPLAINT!	PLEASE SPECIFY COMPLAINT!	2999

