

## Faster deliveries in containers

### From semi-finished to finished products in multi-functional containers

The automatic warehouse is the heart of the optimization process for the overall material flow and production process control at Dornbracht, the leading international manufacturer of high-quality bathroom fittings and accessories. The classic method of production into a finished goods warehouse was replaced by a Kanban system as a result of increasing product variety. To improve the flow of material, returnable containers from SSI SCHAEFER were introduced.

The selected multi-functional containers (MF containers) made from hard-wearing polypropylene run quietly and securely on all sections of the conveyer belt. Currently, nearly 100,000 containers are being used for storage, transport, order-picking and production. The flow rate of containers is controlled and monitored via bar code labels that have been applied at SSI SCHAEFER.

The returnable transport system is made available to Dornbracht suppliers free of charge, loaded with semi-finished products according to specifications and transported to Dornbracht.

To ensure that the end products can be manufactured at Dornbracht just-in-time, the semi-finished products needed for further processing must be constantly available. After the semi-finished products have been plated, they are temporarily stored in the automatic buffer warehouse – just like the purchased parts delivered in containers – and taken out again when required for assembly. Finally, the end-product is loaded back into the corresponding multi-functional container and sent to the finished-product warehouse, where the goods are picked directly from the container and put into the despatch cartons.

This change has enormous advantages for Dornbracht: a reduction of the time to market for standard products and custom designs, smaller stocks and a considerable increase in productivity in all production stages.



The rough components that have not yet been plated are delivered to Dornbracht by the suppliers in SSI SCHAEFER containers



Left photo: The robot reaches into the container in order to treat the rough fittings, one after another, with sanding and polishing agents. The container content is 'recognized' by a camera and finished off one by one



The polished fittings are stored in the automatic buffer warehouse on an ongoing basis



The polished goods are sent from the automatic warehouse to the electroplating area. For plating, the fittings are placed individually on a goods carrier or electroplating racks