



ARROW ELECTRONICS, INC.

Process: Inventory Storage

Inventory Storage

The Brookhaven automated warehouse stocks inventory in a mini-load system, which uses robotic cranes to store and retrieve products. A VAX computer "logically" segregates and controls inventory.

In Arrow's other warehouses, operators, using wireless hand-held radio frequency (RF) terminals and custom-designed carts, store and pick product in random locations according to computer instructions and place product on computerized conveyor systems.

All transactions are processed using bar coding. All facilities are designed to be completely protected from ESD damage. Computer products are processed using a sophisticated pick-to-belt system.

Product in stock is generally kept in the manufacturers' original packaging, and at all times is maintained in ESD-protective packaging using a Faraday cage (conductive or static-shielding). Internal audits are performed to verify proper packaging.

All inventory is maintained on Arrow's computerized real-time inventory system (SIMS). Product is traced to a stock location number. Military product is segregated by date code/lot code. Date codes on commercial product are also recorded. Military documentation is kept on optical disk in a sophisticated documentation imaging system.

First in first out (FIFO) system of stock rotation is used for picking product. This is handled automatically by the VAX computer, which also ensures that military and customer date code requirements are met.

If the wrong parts or mixed parts are found in a stock location or identified by a quality audit, the material is purged, properly identified and segregated, and placed in the proper stock location. The system is adjusted accordingly.