



# Compaxo —

## supplying its customers with the right products at the right time

Family firm expands: The origins of Compaxo lie in Gouda, where, in the second half of the 19th century, a butcher's shop was founded under the name "Van der Post". In 1952, under the name of Compaxo, the company changed to a factory-style production of meat products. 1973, the company opened its own abattoir in Zevenaar.

■ This provided Compaxo with a permanent supply of high-quality meat and enabled the company to operate independently. Despite the enormous expansion, Compaxo remains a family firm. The name 'Van der Post' is still inextricably linked with Compaxo, both in Gouda and in Zevenaar.

An extensive range of meat products is produced in Gouda. The meat also finishes up in various different forms at the end of production: cut, uncut, unpacked, fresh, low-oxygen and vacuum-packed. In addition to their own brand, the company also produces products for a number of private labels.

Compaxo meat products reach consumers through various different distribution channels. Practically all supermarket chains in the Netherlands purchase a proportion of their fresh range from Compaxo. The company also sup-

plies approximately 240 branches of the Dutch department store, HEMA. In addition to their own label meat products other goods, such as cheese, fruit drinks, salads and ready meals are also distributed.

### High demands in the choice of control terminal

For the modernisation of the order processing system a reliable, contemporary control terminal was sought, which could be used on the work floor. Mr. A. K. M. van Zoest, project leader at Compaxo explains: "A PC, linked to scales would not last long in such a working environment. It would actually have to be an industrial PC and a weighing terminal."

Due to their earlier experience with METTLER TOLEDO's ID20 terminal, the choice was finally made for the new ID30 industrial weighing PC, which has extensive facilities for connecting all kinds of peripherals. The application

software on the ID30 is compatible with Windows 2000 or Windows XP. For problem-free linkage between the weighing equipment and the application software, MTScaleConnection, is used. This standard software module ensures instantaneous communication between the METTLER TOLEDO weighing equipment and virtually any software application. Van Zoest continues: "Its connectability to higher level systems was also extremely important for us in choosing the ID30 as a weighing control station."

### The order procedure

The orders come in on the ERP system. Once they have been processed administratively, they are placed on the Order Picking Server for the physical picking of the items. Some 50,000 order lines are processed like this every week and compiled from the fresh stock. The order picking server has its own workstation for order and process control, to enable monitoring of the order picking process.

For picking the items, a list of all the relevant information concerning the customer and the order is printed. Based on this list, all the products are collected in plastic crates and rolling containers. Incorrect or incomplete supply of a customer has consequences; after all, corrections then have to be made along the rest of the distribution chain. "But what is unpleasant is an unsatisfied customer who does not find what he expects at the retailer", says Van Zoest, "which is why it is customary for us to check the picked order properly before it goes on the truck".



**Weighing equipment: METTLER TOLEDO ID30**  
**Weighing platform: METTLER TOLEDO Various**  
**Bar code scanners: SYMBOL LS4074**  
**Label printers: METTLER TOLEDO 8865 and 8867**

### Order picking control

Control during order picking is carried out using an Order Picking Control Station. METTLER TOLEDO supplied nine of these stations to Compaxo, all linked to the Order Picking Server. These control stations consist of an ID30 industrial PC, linked to a weighing platform, a cordless (RF) bar code scanner and a label printer.

Van Zoest: “After the order number has been scanned, the order is taken from our server to the control weighing station where the individual order lines appear. By scanning and weighing the items one after another, we know whether the order line has been picked correctly. If there are any impermissible weight deviations, this is spotted straight away and corrected wherever possible. For order lines that are checked by quantity rather than weight, our operators can give a manual okay via the ID30 terminal.”

Item scanning allows the operator plenty of freedom of movement, thanks to the use of cordless barcode scanners. For weighing the rolling containers, three control stations are equipped with a floor platform that can weigh up to 1,500 kg. The labels printed for an order contain all the customer and product information necessary for the further distribution.

The finished order is put ready for transport to the relevant branch, wholesaler or distribution centre, while the actual data for the picked order is passed on by the Order Picking Server to the ERP system, which generates the invoice and packing slip.

### Control of material flows

With the nine Order Picking Control Stations, Compaxo has the majority of its material flow under control, which means optimal ease of operation for staff. Van Zoest concludes: “By continually working on further quality improvements of both our product and the associated logistics, we are always able to supply customers with the right products at the right time.”

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In addition to the meat factory in Gouda, the Compaxo group also has a slaughterhouse for pigs and a bacon factory in Zevenaar. Each week, approximately 23,000 pigs are slaughtered and processed as carcasses into a number of main parts: shoulder, neck, bacon, belly and ham. Roughly 60% of the products produced in Zevenaar are used as raw materials for the manufacture of meat products in Gouda. The remaining 40% is sold primarily to Germany, Italy, France and Spain, although some products are also sold in countries such as Japan, South Korea, Russia and Hungary. The bacon factory uses ultra-modern production techniques to manufacture bacons, which are largely exported to Great Britain.

