

## CASE STUDY

# Raisin importer leverages Kanban food-grade warehouse for just-in-time supply to customers

**KANBAN**  
LOGISTICS

FOOD-GRADE  
WAREHOUSING

## SITUATION

The largest importer of raisins in the U.S. provides globally sourced raisins of all kinds to makers of cereal, baked goods, trail mix, candy packs and other food products. Due to space constraints in and around the Port of Virginia in Norfolk, the company needed a food-grade warehouse in the Mid-Atlantic Region that could manage FIFO stock rotation protocols. Kanban Logistics in Eastern North Carolina met all these criteria and had the added advantage of already being a service provider to one of the company's largest customers.

## STRATEGY

**Just in time supply.** Raisin orders are shipped to regional food manufacturers, as needed. This real-time delivery enables the raisin company's customers to minimize plant inventory.

**Flexible workforce.** Kanban can marshal workers to rapidly unload containers coming from the port in Norfolk, which is a two-hour drive away. Because Kanban's 5 warehouses are all in close proximity, cross-trained workers can be shared among facilities to handle volume spikes. In addition, temporary labor can be quickly deployed, only as needed, to control ongoing labor costs. Quick container unloading and turnaround avoids container demurrage charges.

**Strict temperature monitoring** during summer months. This is essential since extreme heat can cause raisins to clump together. Kanban's temperature-controlled space ensures the warehouse environment is never out of spec.

**Food grade storage.** Kanban facilities are certified to the ISO 9001:2008 quality standard and include FDA inspection-ready warehouses that are superior rated by AIB International, an objective, global organization that rates food facilities for safety and cleanliness.

## JUST IN TIME SOLUTIONS

## SUCCESS

"Kanban is in an ideal location to provide fast delivery to some of our key food manufacturing customers.

The team there is friendly, professional and very responsive. When I ask for something, it gets done."

**KANBAN LOGISTICS**

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