CLAIMS

1. A system for controlling movement of at least one transporting device arranged to transport at least one container, the system comprising:

a control interface configured to receive information about a product to be moved from a workstation to one of a plurality of containers in one of a plurality of container stacks arranged in a facility, the plurality of container stacks being arranged without aisles between individual container stacks of the plurality of container stacks, the facility comprising pathways arranged in a grid-like structure above the plurality of container stacks; and

one or more processors configured to:

determine whether the product is in condition for return based on a product identifier and an expiry date located on the product;

in response to determining that the product is in condition for return,

select, according to the product identifier and the expiry date located on the product, a first container from the plurality of containers into which the product is to be placed,

generate a command to instruct a transporting device of a plurality of transporting devices to move the first container to the workstation, the plurality of transporting devices being configured to operate on the grid-like structure, and

store the command in a memory device; and

in response to determining that the product is not in condition for return, select a second container located at the workstation into which the product is to be placed for disposal.

2. The system according to claim 1, wherein the command comprises instructions that are executable by the transporting device to cause the transporting device to move the first container to the workstation.

3. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to determine whether the product is in condition for return further based on an order for the product being cancelled, a delivery of the product to a customer failing, or the product being returned by the customer.

4. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate another command to instruct a picker device to automatically place the product in the first container when the first container arrives at the workstation.

5. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate an instruction to instruct a worker to place the product in the first container when the first container arrives at the workstation.

6. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to instruct one of the plurality of transporting devices to move the first container to a location within the plurality of container stacks.

7. The system according to claim 1, in combination with the facility and the transporting device.

8. The system according to claim 1, wherein the control interface is configured to communicate with the plurality of transporting devices via an application programmable interface, the one or more processors being configured to cause the control interface to transmit the command via the application programmable interface to the transporting device.

9. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to select, based on one or more transporting device movement constraints, the transporting device from the plurality of transporting devices to move the first container.

10. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate another command to control a movement of the transporting device based on a condition of the transporting device.

11. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate another command to control a movement of the transporting device based on one or more transporting device movement constraints.

12. The system according to claim 1, wherein the one or more processors are configured to control movement or operations conducted by the workstation.

13. The system according to claim 12, wherein the one or more processors are configured to cause the workstation to repackage or rework the product.

14. The system according to claim 1, wherein the control interface is configured to receive a container identifier for a third container located at the workstation and in which the product is positioned, and the one or more processors are configured to select the first container from the plurality of containers further based on the container identifier.

15. The system according to claim 14, wherein the one or more processors are configured to generate a confirmation request to ask a worker, after the product is placed in the first container, to confirm that there are no further products with the product identifier in the third container.

16. A method for controlling movement of at least one transporting device arranged to transport at least one container, the method comprising:

receiving, by a control interface, first information about a first product to be moved from a workstation to one of a plurality of containers in one of a plurality of container stacks arranged in a facility, the plurality of container stacks being arranged without aisles between individual container stacks of the plurality of container stacks, the facility comprising pathways arranged in a grid-like structure above the plurality of container stacks;

by one or more processors, determining that the first product is in condition for return based on a first product identifier and a first expiry date located on the first product;

in response to determining that the first product is in condition for return,

by the one or more processors, selecting, according to the first product identifier and the first expiry date located on the first product, a first container from the plurality of containers into which the first product is to be placed,

generating, by the one or more processors, a command to instruct a transporting device of a plurality of transporting devices to move the first container to the workstation, the plurality of transporting devices being configured to operate on the grid-like structure, and

storing, by the one or more processors, the command to a memory device;

receiving, by the control interface, second information about a second product to be moved from the workstation to one of the plurality of containers in one of the plurality of container stacks;

by the one or more processors, determining that the second product is not in condition for return based on a second product identifier and a second expiry date located on the second product; and

in response to determining that the second product is not in condition for return, selecting, by the one or more processors, a second container located at the workstation into which the second product is to be placed for disposal.

17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising, by the one or more processors, selecting, based on one or more transporting device movement constraints, the transporting device from the plurality of transporting devices to move the first container.

18. The method according to claim 16, wherein the command comprises instructions that are executable by the transporting device to cause the transporting device to move the first container to the workstation.

19. The method according to claim 16, further comprising generating, by the one or more processors, another command to instruct one of the plurality of transporting devices to move the first container to a location within the plurality of container stacks.

20. The method according to claim 16, further comprising communicating, by the control interface, the command via an application programmable interface to the transporting device.