CLAIMS

1. An article handling facility comprising:

an article handling device for transporting or storing an article; and

a controller for controlling operation of the article handling device;

wherein the controller is configured to collect state information which is information related to operating state of the article handling device, and to transmit notifying information based on the state information to a managing device which manages operation of the article handling device,

wherein the controller is configured to:

determine whether the article handling device is in a normal condition or in an abnormal condition, based on the state information; and

when the controller determines that the article handling device is in a normal condition, transmit to the managing device as the notifying information, normal condition notifying information which includes normal condition determination information which indicates that the article handling device is in a normal condition or normal condition notifying information which includes the normal condition determination information and normal-time information generated based on the state information; and

when the controller determines that the article handling device is in an abnormal condition, transmit to the managing device as the notifying information, abnormal condition notifying information which includes abnormal condition determination information which indicates that the article handling device is in an abnormal condition and abnormal-time information which is generated based on the state information and which has at least one of: a greater amount of data and a greater number of data items than the normal-time information.

2. The article handling facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to:

perform, repeatedly at each set time interval, a summary information generating operation for generating summary information based on time period state information which is the state information that is collected in a set time period which has a same length as the set time

interval, the summary information having at least one of a less amount of data and a less number of data items than time period state information;

transmit the normal condition determination information and the summary information to the managing device as the normal condition notifying information; and

transmit the abnormal-time information and the time period state information to the managing device as the abnormal condition notifying information.

3. The article handling facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the controller is configured to:

transmit normal condition notifying information to the managing device repeatedly at each first specified time interval for a duration of time that the controller determines that the article handling device is in a normal condition, and

transmit abnormal condition notifying information to the managing device repeatedly at each second specified time interval which is shorter than the first specified time interval, for a duration of time that the controller determines that the article handling device is in an abnormal condition.

4. The article handling facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the state information is information related to one or more of output voltage of the electric power unit provided to the article handling device, output current of the electric power unit, and temperature of the electric power unit, and

wherein the controller is configured to determine that the abnormal condition exists if at least one of: the output voltage, the output current, and the temperature falls outside a corresponding tolerance range for determining an abnormal condition.

5. The article handling facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the article handling device is a travel member for transporting an article,

wherein the travel member is capable of supporting an article and is configured to move along a travel path, and

wherein the controller transmits to the managing device as the abnormal-time information, position information which indicates a position of the travel member when the state information used as a basis for generating the abnormal-time information was collected.

6. The article handling facility as defined in claim 1, wherein the article handling device is a travel member for transporting an article,

wherein the travel member is capable of supporting an article and is configured to move along a travel path, and

wherein the controller transmits to the managing device as the abnormal-time information, information that indicates whether the travel member was supporting an article when the state information used as a basis for generating the abnormal-time information was collected.

7. The article handling facility as defined in claim 2, wherein the controller is configured to:

transmit normal condition notifying information to the managing device repeatedly at each first specified time interval for a duration of time that the controller determines that the article handling device is in a normal condition, and

transmit abnormal condition notifying information to the managing device repeatedly at each second specified time interval which is shorter than the first specified time interval, for a duration of time that the controller determines that the article handling device is in an abnormal condition.

8. The article handling facility as defined in claim 7, wherein the state information is information related to one or more of output voltage of the electric power unit provided to the article handling device, output current of the electric power unit, and temperature of the electric power unit, and

wherein the controller is configured to determine that the abnormal condition exists if at least one of the output voltage, the output current, and the temperature falls outside a corresponding tolerance range for determining an abnormal condition.

9. The article handling facility as defined in claim 8, wherein the article handling device is a travel member for transporting an article,

wherein the travel member is capable of supporting an article and is configured to move along a travel path, and

wherein the controller transmits to the managing device as the abnormal-time information, position information which indicates a position of the travel member when the state information used as a basis for generating the abnormal-time information was collected.

10. The article handling facility as defined in claim 9, wherein the article handling device is a travel member for transporting an article,

wherein the travel member is capable of supporting an article and is configured to move along a travel path, and

wherein the controller transmits to the managing device as the abnormal-time information, information that indicates whether the travel member was supporting an article when the state information used as a basis for generating the abnormal-time information was collected.