CLAIMS

1. A conveyance system comprising:

a track;

a plurality of conveyance vehicles to travel along the track and convey a conveyed object;

a storage apparatus including:

a storage plate to and from which any of the plurality of conveyance vehicles is configured to deliver the conveyed object; and

a local vehicle capable of transferring the conveyed object between the storage plate and an apparatus port, wherein any of the plurality of conveyance vehicles is configured to deliver the conveyed object to and from the apparatus port; and

a controller configured or programmed to control operations of the plurality of conveyance vehicles and the local vehicle in accordance with an operation mode,

the controller being configured or programmed to switch the operation mode among:

a first mode that prohibits a transfer operation to transfer the conveyed object from the apparatus port to the storage plate by the local vehicle;

a second mode that prohibits: a transfer operation to transfer the conveyed object to the storage plate by any of the plurality of conveyance vehicles, and a transfer operation to transfer the conveyed object from the storage plate to the apparatus port by the local vehicle; and

a third mode that allows both: the transfer operation to transfer the conveyed object from the apparatus port to the storage plate by the local vehicle, and the transfer operation to transfer the conveyed object from the storage plate to the apparatus port by the local vehicle.

2. The conveyance system according to claim 1, wherein

the storage plate includes a first storage plate provided on an upstream side of the apparatus port in a travel direction of the plurality of conveyance vehicles and a second storage plate provided on a downstream side of the apparatus port in the travel

direction of the plurality of conveyance vehicles, and

the controller prohibits a transfer operation for the conveyed object to the second storage plate by any of the plurality of conveyance vehicles and prohibits a transfer operation from the apparatus port to the first storage plate by the local vehicle.

3. The conveyance system according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured or programmed to switch the operation mode for each of a plurality of the storage apparatuses.

4. The conveyance system according to claim 1, wherein the controller is configured or programmed to receive an operation to request switching of the operation mode and switch the operation mode in accordance with the received operation.

5. The conveyance system according to claim 1, wherein the controller regularly acquires operation status information on an operation status of the conveyance system and automatically switches the operation mode based on the operation status information and a switching rule set in advance.

6. The conveyance system according to claim 5, wherein the controller acquires, as the operation status information, a processing time for one conveyed object at the apparatus port, executes a comparison operation based on the processing time and a threshold set in advance, and switches the operation mode for the storage apparatus allowing the conveyed object to be transferred to and from the apparatus port by the local vehicle based on a result of the comparison operation.

7. The conveyance system according to claim 5, wherein the controller acquires, as the operation status information, an operating number of the plurality of conveyance vehicles in operation in an area containing the storage apparatus, executes a comparison operation based on the operating number and a threshold set in advance, and switches the operation mode for the storage apparatus based on a result of the comparison operation.

8. The conveyance system according to claim 5, wherein the controller acquires, as the operation status information, a vehicle allocating time of any of the plurality of conveyance vehicles collecting the conveyed object after being processed from the storage plate of the storage apparatus or the apparatus port allowing the conveyed object to be transferred to and from the storage plate by the local vehicle, executes a comparison operation based on the vehicle allocating time and a threshold set in advance, and switches the operation mode for the storage apparatus based on a result of the comparison operation.