

Case study: Atacadão
The sweet smell of collaboration

Country: Brazil



Atacadão is a Brazilian wholesaler undergoing non-stop expansion. It currently has 27 distribution centers spread around the country (thirteen of them with Mecalux pallet racks) and it plans to keep opening more. One of its latest projects is a new 11 acre warehouse in the town of Jacareí (state of São Paulo) with the capacity to store 42,898 pallets. The company knows it can always rely on pallet racks to provide the required capacity. They also guarantee easy load handling, in this case, 2,800 inbound pallets and 3,220 outbound pallets a day.



Success spanning over 50 years

Created in April 1962, Atacadão is a wholesaler that offers a wide, varied product catalog for its clientele: supermarkets, drugstores, hotels, restaurants, bakeries and small shops mostly.

The company, with a 50,000-strong team, has flourished since its founding. Claudio Pierre Galvão, Atacadão's Purchasing and Services Manager, says, "In 2018, we had 166 self-service shops and 27 distribution centers in Brazil. By 2019, our goal is to open 20 more of these shops and two more warehouses."

Atacadão's success is rooted in the fact that, since its beginnings, it has carried out sound management of all resources and warehouse operations to deliver orders to customers as quickly as possible.

To do so, it has always relied on the collaboration of a top company in storage solutions like Mecalux. "Not only does it offer quality products, but it also has given us a customized care to satisfy our needs throughout the process. Besides that, it's always kept to the deadlines," says the purchasing and services manager.



Location

1. Aparecida de Goiânia (Goiás)
2. Belém (Pará)
3. Cuiabá (Mato Grosso)
4. Imperatriz (Marganhão)
5. Itajaí (Santa Catarina)
6. Jacareí (São Paulo)
7. Maceió (Alagoas)
8. Maringá (Paraná)
9. Parnamirim (Rio Grande del Norte)
10. Ribeirão Preto (São Paulo)
11. São Joaquim de Bicas (Minas Gerais)
12. Sapucaia do Sul (Rio Grande do Sul)
13. Vitória da Conquista (Bahia)

In fact, Mecalux has equipped thirteen of its warehouses scattered throughout Brazil; all of them fitted with pallet racks because, in the words of Galvão, "they're very popular with companies in our sector."

Capacity and direct access

Recently, Atacadão constructed a new 11 acre warehouse in the town of Jacareí (State of São Paulo). *“We needed another warehouse because our storage space was too small to handle our business’s goods receipt and shipment volumes,”* explains the purchasing manager. *“Our goal was to speed up the distribution of products to points of sale in this state and encourage door-to-door sales,”* he adds. Naturally, it sought out Mecalux’s advice to carry out this project.

The warehouse’s construction took place in six different stages. The center has been gradually expanding its storage capacity in keeping with Atacadão’s logistical needs. *“We have space for 42,898 pallets, although at the moment we’re storing around 30,000,”* explains Galvão.

“Each day, we receive 2,800 pallets and ship out another 3,220,” notes the manager. Taking this amount of work into account, Mecalux pallet racks have been installed. These occupy almost the entire surface area and facilitate goods management. On a normal working day, the operators walk through the storage aisles introducing and removing pallets from their corresponding locations using reach trucks.

The racks are 29.5’ high by 118’ long and divided into six shelf levels. Due to the long aisles, an underpass has been opened up. It crosses all the racks and optimizes operator movements, besides serving as an emergency exit.

Operators use ground-level picking machines at lower shelf levels. They collect

Pallet racks are very versatile. They also have accessories and fixtures to adjust the storage locations to the multiple SKUs’ dimensions (food, cleaning and household products, etc.)

 **Claudio Pierre Galvão**
Purchasing and Services Manager at Atacadão

“We’re very pleased with our Mecalux racks because of their superb quality, which makes them highly durable. In fact, we picked them because they enable us to streamline our daily tasks.”



the boxes that make up each order straight from the pallets and group them on another pallet that they bring along during their route.

Once the order has been completed, operators move it to the preload area (i.e. the floor), located directly in front of the loading docks. There, the pallets are sorted and

grouped according to the order they correspond to or the transportation route, to speed up their loading on the distribution vehicle. Thanks to the pallet racks, Atacadão has achieved the maximum possible capacity and has benefited from the advantages offered by this storage solution, namely, capacity, versatility and accessibility.





Advantages for Atacadão

- **Very versatile system:** Atacadão manages multiple SKUs and products of different dimensions and characteristics. The pallet racks adapt to this diversity.
- **Increased storage capacity:** this company continues to grow and, therefore, to expand its storage capacity. With this warehouse, the company can accommodate 42,898 more pallets.
- **Agile operations:** 2,800 pallets are received daily, and another 3,220 are distributed. The racks facilitate the input and output of this large number of products.



Technical data

Storage capacity	42,898 pallets
Pallet sizes	39" x 47"
Max. pallet weight	2,750 lb
Racking height	29.5'
Racking length	118'

