

# Central warehouses- logistical wonders



Over the years, Ahlseil establishments in different places have moved many times, partly because the company has grown, but also due to the need for modern plants which come up to new logistical requirements and product lines, or proximity to the customers. Here are some of the largest combined office, warehouse and sales facilities which have been inaugurated over the years:

- Södra Hammarbyhamnen in Stockholm (inaugurated 1950)
- Blidögatan in Industrihamnen Malmö (inaugurated 1967)
- Jungmansgatan in Norrköping (inaugurated 1969)
- Marieholm facility in Gothenburg (inaugurated 1970)
- Central warehouse (Logistics centre) in Hallsberg (inaugurated 1990)
- Central warehouses in Norway, Denmark and Finland during the 21st century

Combined port and rail connections have long been essential, in particular for receiving imported goods in e.g. Gothenburg, Malmö and Norrköping. Nowadays, proximity to major roads and highways is the most important. The scope of the product range has varied over time. The 1960s shops had to have room for Heating & Plumbing products (or PHS, Piping, Heating, Sanitation), steel, metals and industrial raw materials. In Gothenburg, even chemical raw materials and special spaces for the freight forwarding operation had to find a roof.

The picture shows the contrast between the old and new central warehouse in Stockholm in 1950. At the old warehouse in Albano, pipe fittings and bathtubs were moved with wheelbarrows and pushcarts. The Hammarby warehouse was inaugurated in June 1950, and the media and politicians were given a roundtrip of the area in a special train to see all the technical refinements being shown off. The new warehouse meant a huge improvement in standard. The new rail going port cranes allowed loading and unloading directly from vehicles to the different parts of the warehouse, particularly the protruding roof terrace. Imported goods, too, arrived by ship. The warehouse's pipe building had a total capacity of 3,000 tons of pipes, equivalent to the distance between Stockholm and Malmö. Every level in the warehouse could be reached by lorry and the loading banks were wide and long. Here you could find crane trucks, forklifts, conveyors, overhead cranes and lifts. The storage areas were 6,000 square meters, and there were 28,000 different articles. Pallets and containers were standardized. Furthermore, the office spaces were bright and large, and there were canteens, shower rooms, lavatories, conference rooms and waiting rooms for the drivers.



Not before 1955 did Ahlseil-Rylanders move their head office into a newly constructed office building facing Hammarbyvägen (today in 2007 it is called Hammarby Allé). It is the only remaining building on Ahlseil's old plot, which at present is the site of intensive housing construction, surely with heating & plumbing and other products from Ahlseil. The Hammarby facility was in use for much of the 1990s, but in 1990 the head office moved to Häggvik in Sollentuna and the central warehouse to Hallsberg in the same year. Ahlseil opened a shop on the Hammarby plot during the 1990s, but moved this one, too, at the end of the decade.

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