



WRS Future Convenience Store Challenge
Preliminary Competition 2018

“Display/Disposal” Task

Rulebook

2018/02/02

Revision History

February 2, 2018

- A subject about an energy saving was added.

January 15, 2018

- First Draft

0. Definitions of Terminology

Term	Definition
Mobile Robot	A robot that can move autonomously.
Infrastructure (Robot)	Unique infrastructure that can be installed inside convenience stores to assist in tasks of the robot. This equipment includes markings, IC tags, sensors, actuators and auxiliary tools to add equipment to products. Infrastructure made up of sensors and actuators can also be seen as stationary robots.
Manipulator	Robot arms, hands and other equipment that execute operations which can be equipped or installed on a mobile robot or as part of the infrastructure.
Product	Products found at a convenience store.
Customer	Person who visit the store to purchase products.
Container	Container used to hold and transport multiple products. A container may also be called a carton.
Product Display Area	Section of the convenience store with display cases or book shelves installed.
Cashier Area	Section of the convenience store with the cashier counter installed.
Restroom Area	Section of the convenience store with the toilet installed (Abbreviation: Restroom).
Aisle Area	Section of the convenience store for customers and mobile robots to come and go. (Abbreviation: Aisle)
Backyard Area	Area of the convenience store customers are not permitted (Abbreviation: Backyard).
Home	Standby station of the mobile robot. The standby station is located in a designated place inside the backyard area.
Display Case A	Case for displaying products. There are no products placed in this display initially.
Display Case B	Case for collecting disposal items. Multiple products are mixed in this case initially.

1. Overview

This challenge aims to develop technology to automate the display of products and collection of disposal items at a convenience store. Participants in this competitive task shall develop a robot that autonomously moves and performs these tasks as well as infrastructure to install inside of the convenience store. In this competitive challenge, participants will use the robots and infrastructure they develop to compete in the proficiency of operations via the systems developed to perform display and disposal demonstrations in a simulated convenience store.

The layout of the convenience store interior is provided in a separate document. In this challenge, participants use the backyard area, home station, aisles, display case A (case to display products that is initially empty) and display case B (case to collect disposal items that initially has a mixture of multiple products). Furthermore, display case A and B have a top shelf, a middle shelf and a bottom shelf.

The following tasks will be performed in the demonstration:

- Position the products stored in the container placed at the home station in the designated place on display case A.
- Straighten the products positioned in display case B while collecting disposal items, and then carry the disposal items to the home station.

In addition, the proposed system must contribute to energy saving in general or to the clerks' work reduction that leads to energy saving at the convenience store businesses.

2. Flow of the Competitive Task

The time limit for this competitive task will be 20 minutes. The competitive task will proceed in the following order:

- ① Renovation time
- ② Setting time
- ③ Display, collection, and disposal demonstration

Participants can distribute the time to each block however they would like. Participants should indicate their progression to the judges when transitioning to each block and when completing the competitive task.

2.1. Renovation time

Participants will be given a container with the products to display and a container for the disposal items.

Participants shall install infrastructure and replace the shelving. The work allowed during the renovation time is as follows:

- Installation of unique infrastructure inside the convenience store.
- Replacement of existing display cases and containers.
- Installation of unique infrastructure for products.

Participants shall indicate to the judges when they have finished their renovations or if renovations are not required while immediately returning disposal items to the judges.

2.2. Setting time

Judges will announce the disposal items and position those products randomly in display case B.

Next, participants set up the mobile robot to execute the task in any position inside of the field while putting the products in the container and placing the container in its initial position (attaching the container to the mobile robot, etc.).

Furthermore, participants will be allowed to control work to add labeling to disposal items for the system during this time (however, a person cannot teach the system the layout of the products placed in display case B).

Participants shall indicate to the judges when they have finished setup.

2.3. Display, collection, and disposal demonstration

Judges confirm the preparations have been made, and then initiate the start of the demonstration.

Participants operate the task start command for the system that controls the mobile robot or infrastructure. Furthermore, participants may decide the order in which to conduct product display and disposal item collection. (However, participants must tell the judges in which order they will start the demonstration before the competitive task starts.)

After the system operations start, no one is allowed to control the mobile robot or take any actions that will influence the operation of the system. Anyone who initially manipulates the operations of the system shall be withdrawn from the task at that point.

3. Details of Challenge

3.1. Layout of Products Inside the Container

Participants must store a total of 12 products inside of the container during the setting time: rice balls (2 types; total of 4 rice balls), drinks (2 types; total of 4 drinks) and lunch boxes (2 types; total of 4 lunch boxes). The products can be placed in the container in any orientation.

3.2. Initial Container Position and Product Transport

Participants can decide the initial container position (however, the container cannot be placed inside of the display case for the initial position).

The initial container position is set inside the home station. If the products can be transported to display case A and one or more of those products autonomously placed on the shelf, the product display will be deemed a success and double the points will be earned for subsequent product display tasks.

3.3. Product Display

Points are awarded for extracting products from the container and placing them in the designated position and orientation in display case A. (Total 25 points)

- Rice balls shall be placed on the top self. The same type of rice balls shall be placed vertically (front to back) and a different type of rice ball shall be placed next to it.
- Drinks shall be placed on the center shelf. The same type of drink shall be placed vertically (front to back) and a different type of drink shall be placed next to it.
- The lunch boxes shall be placed on the bottom shelf. The same type of lunch box shall be placed vertically (front to back) and a different type of lunch box shall be placed next to it.
- 2 points will be awarded for each product placed in the designated position. 1 point will be awarded for products placed on the shelf but not in the designated position.
- A bonus point (1 point) will be added if two or more of each product is placed in the designated position on all three shelves.

3.4. Collecting Disposal Items and Facing Them Up

The products will be eight sandwiches (2 types: 4 of each type) and four of those eight sandwiches shall be disposal items. Participants can determine the shelf to use from the three shelves in display case B, and then the judges will line up a mix of sandwiches. Disposal items shall be collected by checking the expiration date written on the backside of the sandwiches. Products shall be placed face up. Products near the expiration date shall be collected as disposal items. Furthermore, products left on the shelf shall face up (return the products to the designated position with the front side out). The same types of sandwiches shall be bundled and lined up at this time.

Points are earned by arranging products in their designated positions and collecting disposal items. (Total 25 points)

- 3 points is awarded for each disposal item stored in the container.
- 3 points are awarded for each remaining product facing up in the correct position.
- A bonus point (1 point) is awarded if four disposal items are taken from the shelf or if the four remaining products are facing up in the correct position.

3.5. Disposal Item Transport

Disposal item transport will be deemed a success if one or more of the disposal items can be brought back to the home station after the disposal item collection task is complete to double the points earned in the disposal task.

3.6. Retry

Participants can release an object if the task is terminated during object operation and return that object to the position before manipulation with the manipulator. Under other circumstances, participants return the object to the position and orientation indicated by the primary judge supervising the progress of the task up until that point. (The score also rolls back to the score at that time)



4. Specifications and Restrictions

4.1. Products for the Task

The four types of products for this task; rice balls, drinks, lunch boxes, and sandwiches. Each product will have two different flavors (approximately same dimensions and weight). Examples of each product are outlined below. The competition will prepare the products. Furthermore, some of these products may not be used for the competitive task on the day of the competitive challenge due to changes in the product line-up. An alternative product with similar product specifications shall be used in the event of a change. These changes will be announced on the official competition homepage.

4.1.1. Rice Balls

- Product name: Red Salmon
- Outer dimensions: Approx. H75 x W80 x D35 mm
- Weight: Approx. 110 g

4.1.2. Drinks

- Product name: Café Latte (240 ml)
- Outer dimensions: Approx. H108 x W76 x D76 mm
- Weight: Approx. 260 g

4.1.3. Lunch Boxes

- Product name: Deep-fried Chicken Lunch Box
- Outer dimensions: Approx. H50 x W250 x D175 mm
- Weight: Approx. 535 g

4.1.4. Sandwiches

- Product Name: Egg Sandwich
- Outer dimensions: Approx. H140 x W90 x D70 mm
- Weight: Approx. 105 g

4.1.5. Adding Auxiliary Tools to Products

Participants can innovate the geometry and materials of the containers and packages of products as well as attach markings such as bar codes or IC

tags to more easily operate the manipulator. However, auxiliary tools that harm the presentation as a product, are unsanitary, interfere with storage or display, or cannot be used in the microwave are prohibited. Participants must set up auxiliary tools during the renovation time.

4.2. Container

4.2.1. Standard Container Specifications

- Sanko SN Container C#32S
- Outer dimensions: 716 x 460 x 128 mm
- Inner dimensions: 662 x 422 x 119 mm

4.2.2. Usage Restrictions for Unique Containers

Participants can create their own containers to use in place of the standard containers. However, the following requirements need to be satisfied:

- Products used for the display task must all fit inside the container.
- The containers must be able to stack.
- The size must be equivalent to the standard container (estimate: 850x600[mm])

4.3. Display Case

4.3.1. Standard Display Case Specifications

- Slit-type system fixture (gondola shelving)
- Outer dimensions: H1500 x D454 (Shelf 400) x W950 mm
- Three display shelves (D400 x W900); top, center, and bottom
- Each shelf is transparent and has a transparent front rail to prevent products from falling (H35 mm)
- Both sides of the display case has side mesh

4.3.2. Usage Restrictions for Unique Display Cases

Participants can create their own display cases to use as infrastructure in place of the standard display cases. However, the following requirements need to be satisfied:

- The outer dimensions must be within H2000 x D2000 x W2000 mm.
- Display cases must not protrude into the aisles.
- The display cases must have three or more shelves (D400 x W900) for the

display task and disposal task.

- Each shelf must be transparent and take measures to prevent products from falling.
- The products displayed on the shelves must be accessible to patrons.
- The display case cannot be secured to the ceiling, floor, or walls of the venue.

4.4. Mobile Robot and Infrastructure Restrictions

4.4.1. Hardware Restrictions

- There are no restrictions for the number of mobile robots.
- Each mobile robot must take up less than 1 m x 1 m of floor space and all of the mobile robots must fit into the home station.
- A mobile robot must have a size within one square meter in its initial position and during movement. Furthermore, the container will be seen as one part of the robot if the container is built into the robot. However, the robot may exceed this size temporarily while unloading the container, displaying products, or collecting disposal items.
- Infrastructure can be installed anywhere inside of the convenience store, but different restrictions apply according to the area of the store. Please see the documents provided separately for more information.

4.4.2. Software Restrictions

- The mobile robots and infrastructure must move autonomously after the start of the competitive task. However, participants may monitor the internal status remotely to learn the state of their system.
- Mobile robots are prohibited from moving outside of the convenience store.

4.4.3. Energy Source Restrictions

- Participants shall prepare an energy source to use for their mobile robots.
- A power supply within AC100V/1500W is planned as the energy source for participants to use.
- Any energy source deemed to be dangerous or inappropriate for use will not be permitted.

4.4.4. Venue Restrictions

- Participants are prohibited from intentionally staining or damaging the convenience store.
- Infrastructure can be removed immediately after the competitive task ends to return the venue to its original state.
- The convenience store has no ceiling or walls.

4.4.5. Safety Restrictions

- Systems must have an emergency shutdown switch in case of an emergency. All of the movable parts included in the system must immediately stop operation if the emergency shutdown switch is pressed.
- The design must prevent the system from tipping over at all times, including during an emergency stop.
- Measures must be put in place to shield any area with a danger of entangling the arms or legs of people in the vicinity.
- Hot areas and sharp edges must not protrude.
- Energy sources utilizing fire or high temperatures are prohibited.
- Any laser used in the system must be class 1 or lower.
- Products and parts of robots must not eject anything.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Are deductions taken if a product is damaged?

A. Deductions are not taken. However, this may impact the evaluations by judges.

Q. Can the order of the display and disposal tasks be switched?

A. The order to perform the tasks is not designated. Participants need to inform the judges of which task they will attempt in advance because judges and officials have the final say.

Q. Can we use multiple containers?

A. Yes, you can use multiple containers.

Q. What is the stacking strength of the containers?

A. Participants can use their own container as long as it does not exceed the standard container size (estimate: 850 x 600[mm])

Q. Is there a blueprint of the product shelves?

A. Details about each shelf are provided in 4.3.1. Please ask the appropriate manufacturer.

Q. Are there indicators such as borders around the home area?

A. The competition plans to use different color flooring for each area, but there are no clear barriers between these areas.

Q. Are there any restrictions about the number of people for the renovations and setup?

A. There are no restrictions in particular about the number of people for the renovations and setup.

Q. Can the renovations and setup be conducted at the same time?

A. Yes.

Q. Can products be repackaged in original containers?

A. Yes, products can be repackaged. However, make sure original packaging

is sanitary and maintains the same quality.

Q. Will a network be available to use for monitoring the status of the robot?

A. Participants should configure this network. However, each group is responsible for this network because limitations such as the wireless LAN bandwidth are not currently taken into account. Furthermore, underlay of cables that inhibits movement in the aisles will not be permitted.

Q. Is the size of the robot (1m x 1m) a restriction for the initial position?

A. Transformations are allowed as long as the robot can return to its original state at the end of the task.

[Acceptable Example] The robot exceeds the 1 m x 1 m size restriction when the manipulator is extended, but does not exceed this size in its initial posture.

[Unacceptable Example] The robot moves along its route while dropping items, but these items cannot be picked up afterwards.

Q. Will there be water droplets on the products?

A. Products are store up to the competitive task in accordance with the storage instructions designated on the products. Participants shall appropriately handle water droplets and other issues with products during the setting time.

Q. Does the size restriction apply to robots with containers built-in?

A. Yes, the size restrictions apply.

6. Other

This rulebook is subject to change without notice.