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Introduction

This manual will support you with setting up [YellowCube](#) plugin on your WooCommerce store. Only YellowCube specific topics are covered in this document. In order to efficiently set up the website you should be familiar with Wordpress and WooCommerce. If that is not the case we strongly suggest you study the [Wordpress](#) and [WooCommerce](#) documentation pages first.

This document is publicly developed on [GitHub](#) in the [GitBook](#) format. If you notice any mistakes or inconsistencies please consider proposing improvement by opening a [pull request](#) or [opening an issue](#) describing the problem.

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License

// TODO define license

Requirements and dependencies

1. *YellowCube account*: In order to use the YellowCube shipping services you will first need to obtain an account. In order to do that you'll need to get in touch with the Swiss Post by using the [online contact form](#). Post's staff will lead you through the onboarding process and provide you with the account information. This will include, among other information, things like *Sender ID*, *Receiver ID*, *Depositor Nr.*, *Partner Nr.* and *Plant ID*. You will need those when configuring the shop.
2. *Wordpress site with WooCommerce*: You will obviously need a Wordpress site with its eCommerce platform WooCommerce installed on it. If you are not sure how to do that consider checking the relevant documentation sections([\[1\]](#), [\[2\]](#)) or finding professional support. Wordpress, WooCommerce and WooYellowCube plugin are all open source software which means that there are many experts with the necessary expertise available.
3. *Server requirements*:
 - *PHP version*: WooYellowCube plugin will work with any supported version of PHP (5.6+ at the time of writing). However, it is strongly recommended to use PHP 7 or greater (which is actually [required by WooCommerce](#)).
 - *SOAP PHP extension*: YellowCube uses [SOAP](#) to communicate with individual stores. WooYellowCube plugin requires [PHP SOAP extension](#) to be installed on the server for that reason. If you are unsure if that is the case you should check with your hosting provider.
 - *MySQL database*: MySQL version 5.6 or greater OR MariaDB version 10.0 or greater is required.
4. *HTTPS support*: eCommerce websites usually deal with potentially sensitive information. In order to protect those we **strongly** suggest using HTTPS encryption. If you are not sure where to get the certificates we suggest you to check [Let's encrypt, the free, automated and open certificate authority](#).
5. *YellowCube PHP SDK*: WooYellowCube depends on the [official PHP SDK](#). If you will install the plugin using the [suggested method](#) you don't need to do anything as it is already bundled in the official package.

You should also check the [Wordpress](#) and [WooCommerce](#) requirements.

Installation

Getting the plugin

Upon installing [WordPress](#) and [WooCommerce](#) you'll proceed with WooYellowCube installation.

First you will need to download the latest version of the plugin from [its GitHub page](#). You will find the download packages in the releases section:



On the *Releases* page you will see the entire history of WooYellowCube releases and you will generally want to use the latest version (top on the list). Plugin package can be obtained through the links in the *Downloads* section.



Installation

Once you've successfully downloaded the package you will need to extract it into the site's directory structure. There are currently two ways to do that.

Manually

All Wordpress plugins are located under the `wp-content/plugins/` directory and the same is the case with the WooYellowCube. You should extract the package that you downloaded in the previous step and move its contents into the pluginis directory.

If you've done this correctly you should have `wooyellowcube` inside the `wp-content/plugins` directory:



and file structure inside it that looks similar to this:



Depending on your hosting environment you will be required to use different tools to achieve this step (FTP, SSH, Git or other type of version control, ...). Consult your hosting provider if you are unsure about this.

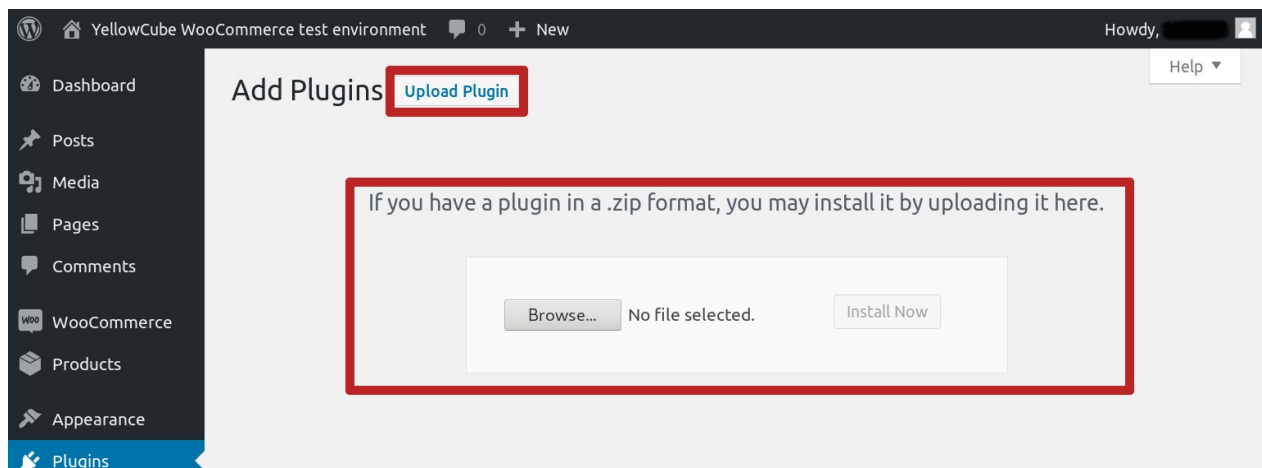
Using the admin interface

This method requires the web server to have write access to the plugin directory and `define('FS_METHOD', 'direct');` to be set in the `wp-config.php`.

You should navigate to the *Plugins* section of the Wordpress administration pages and click on the *Add new* button:



This will take you to the plugin installation page where you are able to install plugins from the Wordpress plugin directory. Alternatively it is also possible to upload a package that was downloaded in the first step. This can be achieved by pressing the *Upload* button and using the upload widget that shows up.



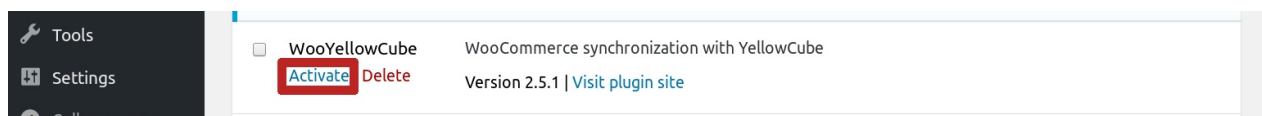
Please note that the upload widget only supports packages in `.zip` format so you need to make sure that you downloaded the correct package.

It is worth mentioning that the WooYellowCube plugin currently isn't available from the Wordpress plugin directory. We are aware that this would simplify the installation process significantly and are currently working on getting it included. We will update this document as soon as this is achieved.

Activation

Once the plugin was successfully installed it will appear in the listing that is displayed in the *Plugins* section of the Wordpress administration pages.

Plugin can be activated by clicking on the *Activate* link next to it.



Once the plugin has been successfully activated the *Deactivate* link will appear next to it and the *WooYellowCube* section will become available in the administration menu.

WordPress

YellowCube WooCommerce test environment

0

New

Howdy,

Screen Options

Help

Dashboard

Posts

Media

Pages

Comments

WooCommerce

Products

Appearance

Plugins

Installed Plugins

Add New

Editor

Users

Tools

Settings

WooYellowCube

Collapse menu

Plugins

Add New

All (4) | Active (3) | Inactive (1)

Bulk Actions

Apply

4 items

<input type="checkbox"/>	Plugin	Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	Error Log Monitor Deactivate	Adds a Dashboard widget that displays the last X lines from your PHP error log, and can also send you email notifications about newly logged errors. Version 1.5.4 By Janis Elsts View details
<input type="checkbox"/>	Hello Dolly Activate Delete	This is not just a plugin, it symbolizes the hope and enthusiasm of an entire generation summed up in two words sung most famously by Louis Armstrong: Hello, Dolly. When activated you will randomly see a lyric from Hello, Dolly in the upper right of your admin screen on every page. Version 1.6 By Matt Mullenweg View details
<input type="checkbox"/>	WooCommerce Settings Deactivate	An e-commerce toolkit that helps you sell anything. Beautifully. Version 3.1.2 By Automattic View details Docs API docs Premium support
<input type="checkbox"/>	WooYellowCube Deactivate	WooCommerce synchronization with YellowCube Version 2.5.1 Visit plugin site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plugin	Description

Bulk Actions

Apply

4 items

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#).

You are using a development version (4.9-alpha-41315). Cool! Please [stay updated](#).

Configuration

Basic configuration

You will find the YellowCube configuration section under the *WooYellowCube* main menu item in the side administration toolbar.

The fields below **Personal informations** need to be filled out with the information you have received by the YellowCube customer service. The field "Sender" is case sensitive.

The fields below **Technical information** need to be setup.

- **SOAP url:** URLs of SOAP services for different operating modes. <https://service.swisspost.ch/apache/yellowcube/?wsdl> should be used for production websites.
- **Operating mode:** Choose between *Testing and Production*
 - In Testing mode orders are processed virtually. Documents, labels etc. are printed out and scanned. This mode is for testing purposes.
 - Production mode needs to be set when the website is live and working.
 - Development mode is only intended to be used by developers. YellowCube users should never use this mode.
- **Authentication:** Should be enabled if you are using certificate file to authenticate with YellowCube.
- **Authentication file:** If the certificate authentication is used provide path to the certificate file on the server in this field (relative to the folder of the WooYellowCube extension).

Define how many days logs will be kept in the database in the **Logs** section. We suggest you start with 30 days and then reduce it if the amount of log items becomes an issue.

Note that you need to provide the IP address of your WooCommerce Shop to YellowCube for giving your shop access to YellowCube. This can also affect the configuration for any staging/development environments. Consult your dedicated service provider for more informations about that.

The screenshot shows the 'WooYellowCube' configuration page. It has a sidebar with various icons and a top bar with 'YellowCube WooCommerce test environment' and 'Howdy, Demo Admin'. The main content area is divided into two columns: 'Personal information' and 'Technical information'.

Personal information:

- Sender:
- Receiver:
- DepositorNo:
- PartnerNo:
- Plant:

Technical information:

- SOAP url:
- Operating mode:
- Authentication:
- Authentication file:

Logs:

- Day before logs are removed from database:
- Debug Request Log:

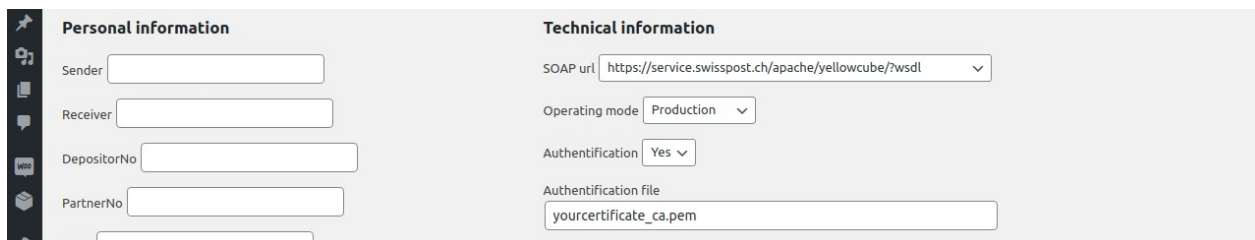
At the bottom left, there is a 'Save information' button.

Every time you save the settings form all states and caches are cleared. Background processes will re-run with the next trigger. This reduces issues when switching between Testing / Production and different accounts. However product registration states remain stale.

Limitation: Do NOT connect multiple shop instances to the same YellowCube account as WAR request (hourly cron containing confirming shippings with track & trace) can not be shared.

Production go live

Once you are ready for production use, change the operating mode settings accordingly:



The screenshot shows a configuration form with two main sections: **Personal information** and **Technical information**. The **Personal information** section includes input fields for Sender, Receiver, DepositorNo, and PartnerNo. The **Technical information** section includes a SOAP url dropdown (set to https://service.swisspost.ch/apache/yellowcube/?wsdl), an Operating mode dropdown (set to Production), an Authentication dropdown (set to Yes), and an Authentication file input field (set to yourcertificate_ca.pem).

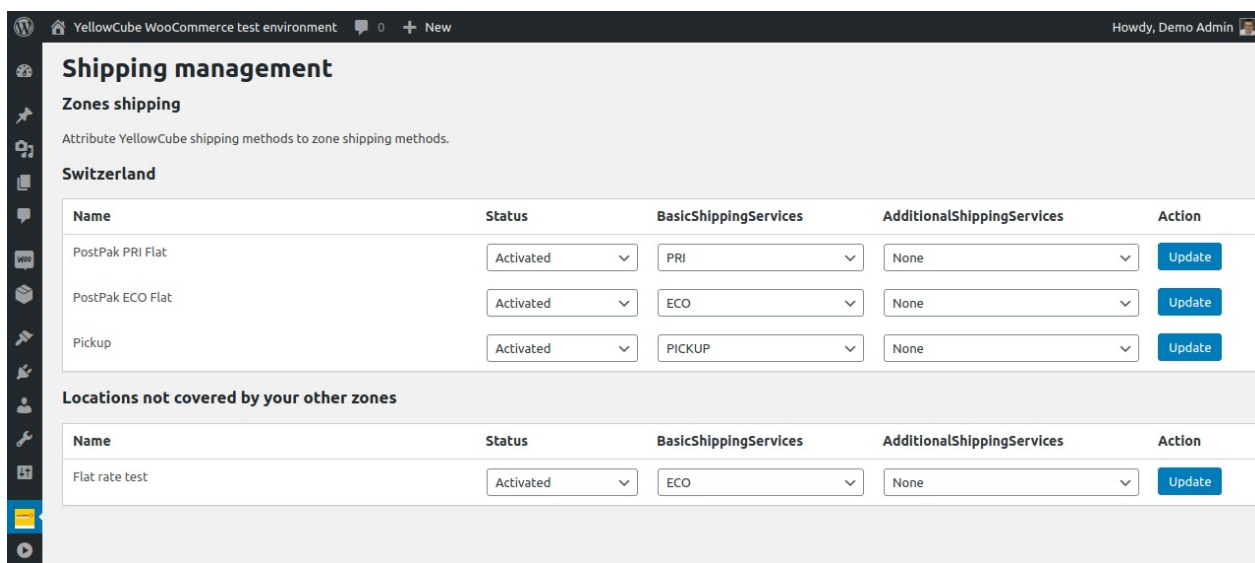
Note that all previously registered articles need to be sent again to registration in production. There is no bulk operation yet to automate this process.

Limitation: If a previously successfully submitted product is not resent after switching the operating mode or account, order submissions containing such a product will fail.

Shipping

YellowCube relies on [shipping zones](#) so you should configure them according to your business logic first. If unsure how to do that check the [relevant section of the WooCommerce documentation pages](#).

Once you have configured shipping zones and added the desired shipping methods to them you will be able to configure YellowCube specific configuration for each of them. You will be able to do that on the configuration page that can be found by navigating to *WooYellowCube -> Shipping*:



The screenshot shows the **Shipping management** interface. It has a sidebar with navigation icons and a main content area. The main content area is titled **Shipping management** and **Zones shipping**. Below this, it says "Attribute YellowCube shipping methods to zone shipping methods." and lists **Switzerland** as the selected zone. There are two tables: one for shipping methods and one for locations not covered by other zones. Each table has columns for Name, Status, BasicShippingServices, AdditionalShippingServices, and Action.

Name	Status	BasicShippingServices	AdditionalShippingServices	Action
PostPak PRI Flat	Activated	PRI	None	Update
PostPak ECO Flat	Activated	ECO	None	Update
Pickup	Activated	PICKUP	None	Update

Name	Status	BasicShippingServices	AdditionalShippingServices	Action
Flat rate test	Activated	ECO	None	Update

The page lists all shipping methods (grouped by zones) and allows you to configure YellowCube for each of them separately. YellowCube can be enabled by selecting *Activated* in the *Status* dropdown for the relevant shipping zone/method.

Orders still can be manually sent to YellowCube on each [order detail page](#) even if a matched zone is deactivated for YellowCube.

The other two dropdowns (*BasicShippingServices* and *AdditionalShippingServices*) allow you to select the YellowCube product that should be used. You will find more detailed information about those in the YellowCube Interface Manual.

Activity Log

Check the [activity log](#) to see the activity on your website.

Stock management

In the **WooYellowCube stock management** you will find information about your products. For each *Product name (SKU)* you can check how many items are available in the YellowCube stock.

WooYellowCube - Stock management

Product name (SKU)	WooCommerce stock	YellowCube stock	YellowCube date	Shop & YellowCube Stock Similarity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WPTST1		10	12/09/2017 05:11	Different stock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WPTST2		19	12/09/2017 05:11	Different stock

Next entries >

Action on selected products

Send ART profile

Execute

Thank you for creating with [WordPress](#). You are using a development version (4.9-alpha-41315). Cool! Please [stay updated](#).

Here you also can take action for selected products:

- *Send ART profile* Will send basic information (name, SKU, size, weight, ...) about the product to YellowCube. This generally happens automatically upon product creation and update so it should only be used if something went wrong.
- *Update WooCommerce Stock with YellowCube:* Stock information in WooCommerce will sometimes diverge from the one reported by YellowCube for various reasons. If you are sure that the stock information provided by the latter is correct you can use this action to override the information WooCommerce has about the selected products.
- *Force to refresh inventory* This will have the same effect as *_Update WooCommerce Stock with YellowCube_* but it will apply to all products and not just the ones that you manually selected.

WooYellowCube - Stock management

Product name (SKU)	WooCommerce stock	YellowCube stock	YellowCube date	Shop & YellowCube Stock Similarity
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WPTST1		10	12/09/2017 05:11	Different stock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WPTST2		19	12/09/2017 05:11	Different stock

Next entries >

Action on selected products

Send ART profile

Execute

Compatibility

Tested with

- *WPML* for a multilingual shop. Still known to causes poor performance.
- *Error Log Monitor* to better identify runtime errors.

Known incompatibilities

Do not use any other multilingual modules except WPML as they have known issues.

Do not use any module that modifies shipping rules.

Update

Getting the latest version of plugin

Store administration guide

This section covers most important information related to the management of the WooCommerce store. This includes product and order creation and management.

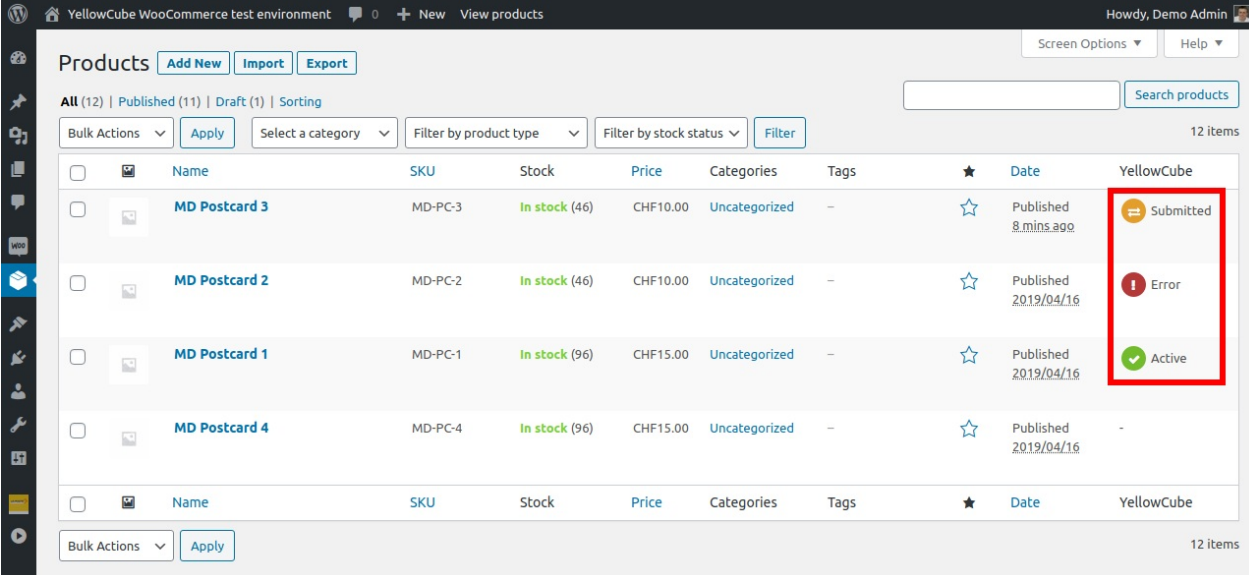
YellowCube is just a tiny part of the entire process. We suggest store admins to study the official WooCommerce documentation that covers [product](#) and [order](#) management.

Product management

A product that is managed by YellowCube needs to be registered first.

Product list

The registration status of each products can be seen on the product listing page:



	Name	SKU	Stock	Price	Categories	Tags	★	Date	YellowCube
<input type="checkbox"/>	MD Postcard 3	MD-PC-3	In stock (46)	CHF10.00	Uncategorized	-	☆	Published 8 mins ago	Submitted
<input type="checkbox"/>	MD Postcard 2	MD-PC-2	In stock (46)	CHF10.00	Uncategorized	-	☆	Published 2019/04/16	Error
<input type="checkbox"/>	MD Postcard 1	MD-PC-1	In stock (96)	CHF15.00	Uncategorized	-	☆	Published 2019/04/16	Active
<input type="checkbox"/>	MD Postcard 4	MD-PC-4	In stock (96)	CHF15.00	Uncategorized	-	☆	Published 2019/04/16	-

The possible values in the YellowCube column are:

- -: Product is not connected to YellowCube.
- Submitted: An new product definition or an update was sent to YellowCube and we are waiting for confirmation. New products are not yet connected to YellowCube.
- Active: YellowCube confirmed that it received and processed the product information. Everything seems to be OK.
- Error: YellowCube was unable to process the product information. Check the log on the product edit page to learn more.

Edit product details

Detailed information about YellowCube communication about the product is available at the bottom of the product edit page.

In order to register a product at YellowCube successfully it needs to meet the following requirements:

- **SKU**: required field, used as primary product identifier. Changes are not supported after registration at YellowCube. You will find it under *Product data* -> *Inventory*.

Edit product [Add New](#)

MD Postcard 1

Permalink: <http://ycwordpress.staging.office.md-systems.ch/product/md-postcard-1/> [Edit](#)

[Add Media](#) Visual Text

Word count: 0 Last edited by Demo Admin on August 20, 2019 at 1:04 pm

Product data — Simple product Virtual: ☐ Downloadable: ☐

General SKU: MD-PC-1

Inventory Manage stock? ☒ Enable stock management at product level

Shipping Stock quantity: 96

Linked Products Allow backorders? Do not allow

Attributes Low stock threshold: 2

Advanced Sold individually: ☐ Enable this to only allow one of this item to be bought in a single order

Get more options

Publish [Preview Changes](#)

Status: **Published** [Edit](#)

Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)

Published on: Apr 16, 2019 at 08:41 [Edit](#)

Catalog visibility: **Shop and search results** [Edit](#)

[Copy to a new draft](#) [Move to Trash](#) [Update](#)

Product categories [+ Add new category](#)

All categories Most Used

☒ Uncategorized

Product tags [Add](#)

Separate tags with commas

[Choose from the most used tags](#)

- **Weight:** in kg, required field. You will find it under *Product data* -> *Shipping*.
- **Dimensions:** in cm, not strictly required. However, it is recommended to provide this information.
- **Manage stock:** required to enable for products managed with YellowCube.

Word count: 0 Last edited by Demo Admin on November 20, 2019 at 1:57 pm

Product data — Simple product Virtual: ☐ Downloadable: ☐

General Weight (kg): 0.1

Inventory Dimensions (cm): 10 15 1

Shipping Shipping class: No shipping class

Linked Products

Attributes

Advanced

Get more options

Publish [Add new category](#)

Status: **Published** [Edit](#)

Visibility: **Public** [Edit](#)

Product categories [+ Add new category](#)

All categories Most Used

☒ Uncategorized

Product tags [Add](#)

Separate tags with commas

[Choose from the most used tags](#)

Product image [Set product image](#)

Product gallery

In order to trigger the registration at YellowCube you need to click *Send product to YellowCube*. Make sure to save any article change prior to click this button as changes are lost.

For later product updates the button is later named *Update product to YellowCube*.

Product registration and update

The screenshot displays the 'YellowCube - Manage ART (product)' interface. On the left, under 'Last YellowCube status:', a green box indicates 'SUCCESS: Der Artikel wurde angelegt bzw. erweitert.' Below this, the 'Resend product information to YellowCube' section asks 'Is your product using lot management?' with a dropdown set to 'Lot management is deactivated'. An important note states: 'Important: YellowCube has to be informed that you product use lot management'. A blue button 'Update product to YellowCube' is present. The 'Unlink the liaison with YellowCube' section notes 'Your product will be deactivated in YellowCube' and includes a button 'Remove the link with YellowCube'. On the right, 'YellowCube last activites for this product' shows a log of events: 'ART-ACCEPTED' (02/07/2019 23:04:22, 'Der Artikel wurde angelegt bzw. erweitert.'), 'ART-UPDATE' (02/07/2019 23:00:03, 'File received'), 'ART-ACCEPTED' (17/04/2019 06:21:27, 'Der Artikel wurde angelegt bzw. erweitert.'), and 'ART-UPDATE' (17/04/2019 06:18:03, 'File received'). A 'Product gallery' section on the far right has a link 'Add product gallery images'. The footer includes a request for a 5-star rating and 'Version 5.3'.

In the left column we can see the general status of the product.

Log of all the communication about the product can be seen in the right column. If there were any problems you will be able to see the error messages here.

Disconnect from YellowCube

A product can be disconnected from YellowCube by clicking the button *Remove the link with YellowCube*. The button is only visible for properly registered products.

Advanced: Lot management

In order to deal with expiring products, you can enable lot management by choosing *Lot management is enabled* and submitting a product update.

You can't deactivate lot management once it has been enabled. Even after disconnecting the product, it needs manual delete at YellowCube to re-add it without lot management again. Before enabling lot management you need to consider all implications of such action. If you are unsure about that please contact Swiss Post support for more information.

Unsupported: Multiple articles with the same SKU

WooYellowCube doesn't support using the same SKU in multiple articles or variations. As a result, each product would have an independent stock counter and a random one would be picked for the update. This can be a limitation with certain multilingual approaches.

Order management

An order is relevant for YellowCube if the determined shipping zone is enabled for YellowCube.

When relevant orders are created they will be sent to YellowCube as soon as they reach the *Processing* status.

A well integrated online payment method (e.g. credit cards) will update the status either immediately or with a short delay after clearance (based on a callback).

If the customer used a payment method that requires manual intervention the store admin will need to change the status of the order to *Processing* manually.

Order list

The status of each orders can be seen on the order listing page:

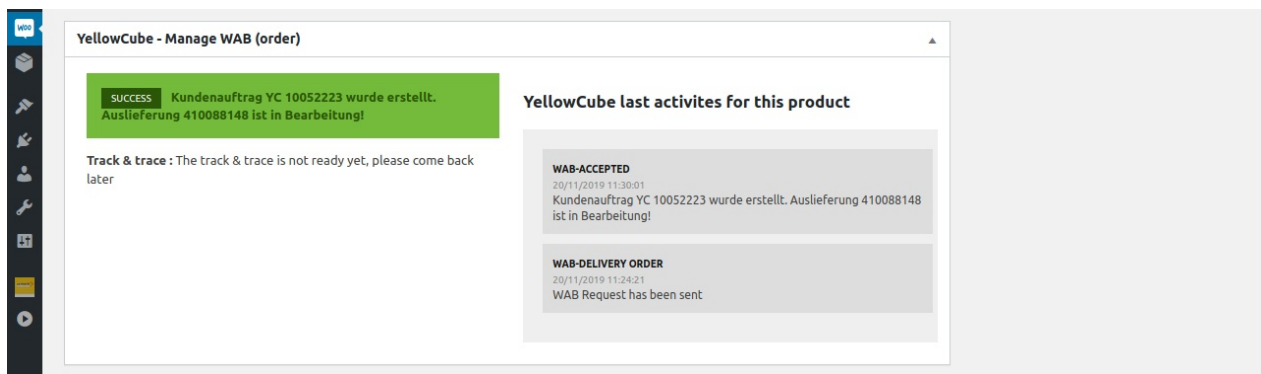
Order	Date	Status	Total	YellowCube
#185 Test Client	36 mins ago	Failed	CHF15.00	Error
#184 Test Client	37 mins ago	On hold	CHF13.00	-
#183 Test Client	45 mins ago	On hold	CHF13.00	Submitted
#182 Test Client	45 mins ago	Processing	CHF13.00	Confirmed
#181 Test Client	3 hours ago	Processing	CHF13.00	Confirmed
#180 Test Client	3 hours ago	Completed	CHF13.00	Confirmed
#179 Test Client	3 hours ago	Processing	CHF13.00	Confirmed

The possible values in the YellowCube column are:

- -: Order has not been sent to YellowCube at all. This could mean that this specific order shouldn't be processed by YellowCube (sent to a shipping zone that is not handled by YellowCube) or that there are still conditions to be met to do so (usually awaiting payment).
- Submitted: Order has been sent to YellowCube but it hasn't been processed on their side yet.
- Confirmed: Order was dispatched from the YellowCube facility and the product is on its way to the customer. Tracking code is provided in the logs if applicable.
- Error: A problem occurred while trying to process the order on the YellowCube side. Check the logs on the order edit page for more info.

Edit Order for details

Detailed information about YellowCube communication about each order is available at the bottom of the order edit page.



The status of the order and the tracking information (if available) are displayed on the left.

Log of all the communication about the order can be seen in the right column. If there were any problems you will be able to see the error messages here.

Stock reservation on submission

Any order submission will reserve its articles and deduct each articles stock counter immediately.

Proper order cancellation

An order can stay stuck in status *Pending payment* or maybe *Failed* if a customer cancels on the payment page. Manual payment methods typically stay *On hold*.

In order to free the reserved stock, WooCommerce requires a store admin to put the order to status *Cancelled*.

Permanently deleting an order with reserved stock via trash will not restore the stock counter. This is a WooCommerce limitation.

Stop order delivery

Once an order is submitted to YellowCube, you can not stop its delivery in WooCommerce.

A store admin can try to stop delivery by calling [calling YellowCube Support](#) as long as the delivery was no yet started.

Additionally, the store admin will need to manually set the status to *Cancelled* to free its stock again.

Returns

Please note that the WooYellowCube currently doesn't handle order returns automatically. If a return happens the payment refund and any other relevant steps need to be made manually by the operator.

Backed order creation

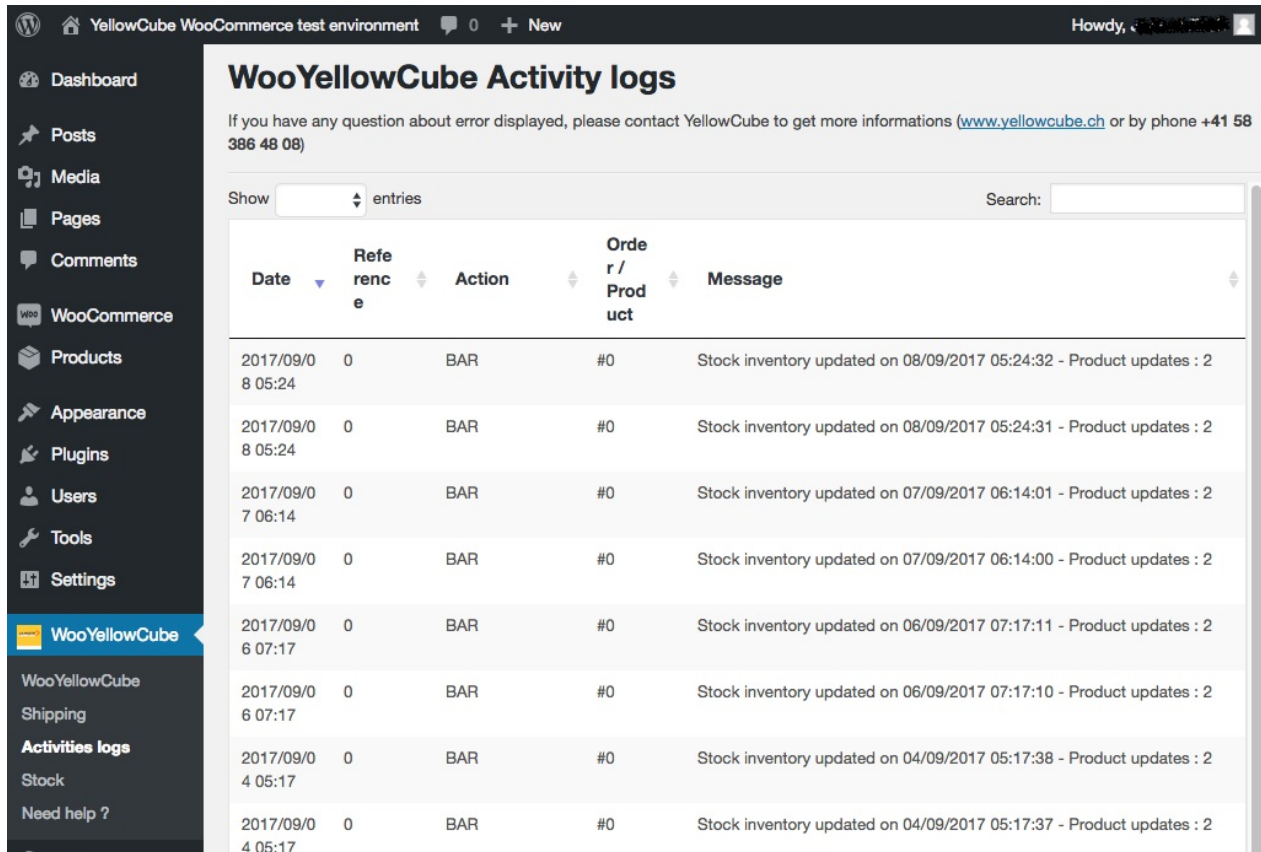
Backend order creation is currently not supported and such orders won't be processed by the YellowCube. If a store admin needs to create an order on behalf of the customer it needs to be done through the public store interface.

Advanced: Manual order submission

Some store admins like to determine on a per order basis if they handle it on their own or pass it to YellowCube. If YellowCube is disabled for a matched shipping zone, a store admin can still manually force submit it.

Activity Log

Check the **activity log** to see the activity on your website. A log message is automatically created when errors occur, stock inventory is updated etc. You will also find the tracking numbers for orders that were already processed and shipped.



The screenshot shows the WordPress dashboard for a 'YellowCube WooCommerce test environment'. The left sidebar contains various menu items, with 'WooYellowCube' highlighted. The main content area displays the 'WooYellowCube Activity logs' page. At the top of this page, there is a note about contacting support and a search bar. Below this is a table with columns for Date, Reference, Action, Order / Product, and Message. The table contains eight entries, all showing 'Stock inventory updated' messages with specific timestamps and product update counts.

WooYellowCube Activity logs

If you have any question about error displayed, please contact YellowCube to get more informations (www.yellowcube.ch or by phone +41 58 386 48 08)

Show entries Search:

Date	Reference	Action	Order / Product	Message
2017/09/08 05:24	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 08/09/2017 05:24:32 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/08 05:24	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 08/09/2017 05:24:31 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/07 06:14	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 07/09/2017 06:14:01 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/07 06:14	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 07/09/2017 06:14:00 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/06 07:17	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 06/09/2017 07:17:11 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/06 07:17	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 06/09/2017 07:17:10 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/04 05:17	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 04/09/2017 05:17:38 - Product updates : 2
2017/09/04 05:17	0	BAR	#0	Stock inventory updated on 04/09/2017 05:17:37 - Product updates : 2