5 BENEFITS OF WAREHOUSE AUTOMATION

October 13th, 2015 • Evergreen • John Lopes

The heart and soul of a successful distribution operation is knowing exactly where your products are stored and the quickest way to retrieve them. The efficiency with which you manage picking, packing, shipping, and receiving has an immediate impact on your bottom line. One way to obtain a big gain in efficiency is to implement RF scanning in your warehouse.

Benefits Include:

1. Physical Counts get Easier & Shorter. Physical counts have to be the most dreaded event in the life of a distributor. They are time consuming, they take additional staff to accomplish and they disrupt your normal processes. Customers report an average of a 75% reduction in time and resources once automated warehouse systems are implemented.

2. Shipping Errors Stop. Shipping errors are so easy to make when you have similar packaging or new staff that can't quite differentiate between your products. Most warehouse automation solutions link back to your ERP system and have the ability to validate items against the sales order. If someone tries to pick the wrong item, the system will not allow them to continue. Shipping errors cost a minimum of $100 when additional shipping and material handling is calculated. Even if you only have a 2% shipping error rate, savings can be in the thousands once you eliminate the errors.

3. No More Data Entry. The warehouse team can ship and receive quickly using a manual system but the paperwork can become a sizable pile by the end of the day. By utilizing handhelds data is entered immediately in the warehouse, meaning office staff simply needed to run the update at the end of the day to post the transactions.

4. Trusting Inventory Quantities. Have you ever had a customer call to find out if something is in stock and, when the quantity is on the low side, you call down to the warehouse to find out the true amount in stock? When data entry is slow and mistakes are being made, inventory quantities can be difficult to trust. Scanning each and every inventory movement solves this problem because quantity changes are updated real-time.

5. Finding Items. You may show that you have an item in stock but when you look for it, it seems to have disappeared into thin air. Is that because it was transferred and not recorded? Did someone steal it or just put it away in the wrong spot? Warehouse automation forces the user to scan item locations as they put-away, transfer or ship inventory so that you always know exactly where items are stored.

Automating your warehouse is a change that has been worthwhile for so many businesses. By combining radio frequency and barcode technology with a robust Warehouse Management System you can have powerful, scalable and flexible real-time data to help you boost productivity, reduce costs, shorten order fulfillment times and increase customer satisfaction.

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