Lean Your Materials Management by Going Mobile

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Over the past few decades, technological innovations have enabled manufacturing companies to lean many of their production processes and compete more effectively in global markets. However, for many manufacturers, materials management remains a slow, inefficient process rife with human error and largely driven by historical rather than real-time data.

Take inventory, for example. The development of ERP software has simplified the inventory tracking process to a large degree by moving it from a paper file folder to a digital database. But if your inventory isn't next to the computer, you still have to write it down on a piece of paper, walk over to the computer, and then manually enter the data into the system. This takes time and opens the door to the human error that inevitably occurs with handwritten data. And unless you shut down operations every time you count a piece of inventory or conduct a bin-to-bin transfer, the data is always one step behind what's actually happening on the shop floor.

With GS Mobile, materials management has finally entered the 21st century. Utilizing the latest in barcode scanning, handheld printing, and mobile device technologies, GS Mobile redefines the entire materials management process. From physical inventory to shipments, purchase order receipts, inventory transfers and more, GS Mobile gives you unprecedented speed, visibility and control.

Imagine knowing where every piece of raw material is in your plant – and being able to locate it instantly. Imagine moving inventory from one bin to another and accurately documenting the entire transaction right there on the shop floor, in real time. Imagine printing move tickets from anywhere on the shop floor as you assign and pull parts to work in progress. And all of these activities are instantly, automatically, and wirelessly recorded and managed in Global Shop Solutions ERP software ensuring the accuracy and integrity of the data.

That's the power of GS Mobile!

Taking Barcoding To The Next Level

Lean materials management starts with barcoding incoming parts and raw materials, as well as all types of inventory. GS Mobile takes barcoding to the next level by transforming it from a stationary to a mobile process, allowing you to simplify material transactions, improve inventory accuracy, and take faster physical inventory and cycle counts.

Whether receiving incoming raw materials, counting inventory in the warehouse, or transferring parts on the shop floor, the person handling the material simply scans the barcoded label and GS Mobile records the transaction in real time. This eliminates the data entry errors that occur when tracking barcoded labels by hand, and produces real-time transactional labels to speed up the materials management process.

HERE'S SOME OF WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH GS MOBILE:

RAW MATERIAL TRACKING

With configured options, you can automatically receive parts into your inventory default bin or stocking bin. Simply scan the label, and the data instantly goes on the [Inventory Master](#).

Bin-to-bin transfers are a snap. Scan the barcode label on the bin where you pull the part, scan again when the part goes into a different bin, and you're done. GS Mobile's highly reflective labels offer excellent visibility. Angled bin labels make it easy to scan overhead bins. And with some scanners, you can scan up to a distance of 50 feet.

GS Mobile also lets you issue material at the point of picking for a work order, enabling material handlers to process transactions and update inventory and WIP in real-time. You can scan the material sequence on the work order, which greatly reduces the number of clicks and screens required to issue material from raw material inventory to work in process. You can even label materials picked to WIP by printing a transactional issue-to-work order label.

MOBILE TOOL TRACKING

GS Mobile simplifies the tool tracking process through wireless receipt of purchase orders in the tool room and bin transfers to tool vending machines.

Simply scan the employee, job, part, and tool and you're good to go. GS Mobile also facilitates the direct dispensing and storage of materials from vending machines. From the wireless receipt of the purchase order at the VMI stock bin to the wireless issuing of material to the work order, GS Mobile easily enables self-serve dispensing that saves you time and money.

FINISHED GOODS TRACKING

From the point of finished production until you document a completed part and pull it for shipment, GS Mobile delivers unprecedented control over finished goods inventory. Scan the label on the finished good as you transact each step of the process, and Global Shop Solutions automatically records the data.

PHYSICAL INVENTORY

With GS Mobile, you get fast, reliable count verifications and updates. You can run cycle counts in real-time (without having to temporarily stop production), make on-the-fly adjustments to part and lot-bin counts, and print new barcode labels on the spot with ease.

MOVE TICKETS

Moving physical inventory around the shop floor is quicker and easier with GS Mobile. Move tickets generated at the Shop Floor Data Collection stations can be scanned into GS Mobile and then printed with a portable label printer from anywhere on the shop floor.

SHIPPING AND STAGING

Even shipping is faster and more efficient with GS Mobile. Scanning and validating as you pull the product ensures that you ship the right product and quantity. And with handheld devices, you can print paperwork from anywhere in the plant.

The GS Mobile Return On Investment

Shifting from stationary to mobile materials management requires an investment in equipment and a learning curve for your employees. However, implementing GS Mobile may require less than you think. To get started, you will need the following hardware and software:

- A certified, business-grade wireless network
- Wireless barcode scanners

- GS LabelWriter
- Label printers (fixed or mobile)

To achieve maximum flexibility and efficiency, your wireless network should cover your entire shop, without any dead spots in reception or transmission. The mobile barcode scanners need to be compatible with Global Shop Solutions. And you will also need to have GS LabelWriter, which allows you to create labels for everything from purchase order receipts to physical inventory tags, bill of lading labels, and more. In addition, your label printers must have the ability to print barcodes.To browse a selection of certified barcode scanners and mobile printers that are guaranteed to work with GS Mobile, please visit our partner EMS Barcode Solutions website.

To get you up and running with GS Mobile, we offer a full service implementation plan that includes:

- Identification of hardware and software needs
- Plan design and implementation (which transactions to perform on wireless, setup of labels, etc.)

- On-site hardware setup
- Training employees to use the equipment

All implementations are led by one of our senior consultants and backed by our industry-leading customer support.

Ultimately, GS Mobile is all about cutting costs and improving productivity on the shop floor. Using your wireless network you can receive and issue materials, conduct bin-to-bin transfers, perform realtime inventory and cycle counts – faster, more accurately, and from anywhere on your shop floor.

View a short video of one of our customers putting GS Mobile into action.

To learn more about how GS Mobile can lean your materials management process, call 1.800.364.5958 or visit www.globalshopsolutions.com.

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