WePackItAll™

A leading contract packaging and service company, WePackItAll™ designs and produces a wide variety of custom packaging for everyday products ranging from sugar and hot chocolate to vitamins, liquids, powders, cereals and more. Expert in all types of packaging, including packets, multi-packs, stick-packs, blisters, powders, liquids, tablets, high-speed bottling, the custom job shop also provides specialized services that include Kosher, Halal, organics, wrapping, blending, and custom tooling.

WePackItAll headquarters in Duarte, California.

One of five new controlled environment production rooms.

cGMP-registered by NSF International, WePackItAll has earned several "must-have" industry certifications from the American Association for Quality, the Content Packaging Association, and Organic Certifiers. However, because they handle food and vitamin products, the company must also meet the standards of a much tougher organization: the Federal Drug Administration (FDA). And that's where Global Shop Solutions ERP software plays a key role.

"Much of our business falls under the FDA code CFR21/Part 111, which governs nutritional supplements," explains COO David Hoover. "For recall purposes, we have to fully track everything that comes through by lot codes and expiration dates. Global Shop Solutions gives us the ability to do that with just a few clicks of the mouse. The lot-to-lot tracking features give us precise control throughout the inventory and shop floor areas. And we've coupled that with the Document Control™ link feature to help manage our regulatory records in the system."

Flexible Software for a Custom Job Shop

Whether it's a new product or a different type of packaging, most WePackItAll jobs require something new or different. Hoover credits Global Shop Solutions ERP software's highly flexible router/work order features with allowing them to handle their custom jobs in a timely and efficient manner.

"Basically, our customers send us their vitamins or food products and packaging, and we put it all together and send it back," he says. "We do a lot of similar projects, but every job is a one-off deal, and no two are exactly the same. Global Shop Solutions gives us the flexibility to do what we do while providing structure to how we build and manage work through our plant."

"The amazing thing about Global Shop Solutions is that while it isn't really built for our type of business, it's flexible enough to adapt to our environment," he explains. "This gives us the ability to fabricate simple and complex routings that take into consideration all the different aspects of our custom work."

Global Shop
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Using GAB to Customize Their ERP

When more flexibility is needed, WePackItAll turns to the Global Application Builder (GAB) to customize everything from simple tasks, such as launching forms, to complex processes like full automation of the WIP to finished goods process.

For example, when a customer asked for 100 different mixes of vitamins in a single order, it required creating and processing a different sales order and work order for each unique mix – a time-consuming task requiring a lot of data entry.

Hoover and Global Shop Solutions Consultants used GAB and EDI to create a solution that electronically imports the customer file and uses the data to create the sales and work orders – all from one barcode. Instead of five minutes of manual data entry per transaction, hundreds of transactions can now be completed in the same amount of time.

More recently, WePackItAll IT/ERP Specialist Antonio Puente created a relatively simple GAB script that simplified the company's highly complex job setup process. The program pulls all the information from an order into one screen and puts it back out through a Crystal report to provide the technician with all the data needed to set up the job.

"This saves a huge amount of time and also improves the quality of information at the point of decision-making," notes Hoover. "Moreover, it demonstrates the ability to expand Global Shop Solutions beyond its out-of-the-box capabilities without the expensive coding usually required by other software."

30% Reduction in Inventory Value

Since implementing Global Shop Solutions ERP software, WePackItAll has reduced its raw materials and finished goods inventory value by 30%, while improving accuracy from 93.2% to 99.7%. Hoover credits these improvements to having a robust system that tracks everything down to the lot/bin level with remarkable precision.

"You can't take the human element completely out of inventory transactions," he explains, "so it's important to have a tool that allows you to do the job properly. Using Global Shop Solutions, we put in place the controls, processes and reporting required to monitor and maintain our inventory more accurately."

New cold-form blister packaging adds to their extensive product line.

"We maintain a lot of component and packaging material inventories for our customers, which we also track in the system," he says. "We enter them at zero cost and perform routine cycle counts to maintain accuracy, but it's not part of our audited physical inventory reconciliation. Nevertheless, Global Shop Solutions provides the flexibility to track these inventories separately so they don't skew our own inventory numbers."

Faster, Better Decisions

In the packaging industry, which never stops evolving, speed is of the essence. With Global Shop Solutions ERP software, WePackItAll enjoys faster access to data, enabling them to execute daily tasks more efficiently and make informed decisions at key control points throughout the organization.

"The speed at which we collect, access and analyze data has grown by leaps and bounds," adds Hoover. "More important, it has greatly improved our ability to make critical decisions quickly and with confidence."

"Our success is driven by our ability to deliver a quality product to our customers in a timely manner," he concludes. "Since implementing Global Shop Solutions, we've been able to simplify processes and generate the information we need to remain agile and react quickly in a fast-paced and ever-changing business segment."

Global Shop SOLUTIONS ERP SOFTWARE