



Case Study – Automotive Parts Manufacturer

This manufacturer makes a wide variety of precision rubber components for the automotive industry. They run three shifts, seven days a week. They buy specialty rubber mixes and then mold these into parts. Each batch of parts goes through an extensive quality control inspection process that involves automated inspection of every part plus sample testing in a laboratory. Parts are then boxed, labeled and shipped to a number of automotive plants.



This company was required to implement end-to-end parts traceability by their major customer. This was because the failure of the parts by this client could cause accidents for which they, and their major automotive customer, could be liable.

This client selected BellHawk Systems to implement their barcode tracking and traceability solution because they were given nine months to implement a solution. BellHawk offered most of the features they needed, working out-of-the-box, and the BellHawk software could be quickly modified to their special requirements.

This system tracks the receipt and put-away of raw materials. It then tracks these materials to the individual extruding and molding machines and makes sure that the correct materials are being used for the batch. As the materials come out of the molding machines they are placed in containers with barcoded tracking cards. These cards are then used to track the containers of parts through quality control inspection and into packing, where they are placed in barcoded boxes. The BellHawk system is then used to track and control which boxes are picked, packed and shipped to each customer plant.

Most of the tracking is performed using PCs equipped with corded or cordless scanners, although wireless mobile computers are used in a few locations.

For this application, the BellHawk system was closely integrated with the client's Oracle manufacturing system. Data about vendor purchase orders and jobs to manufacture batches parts is exported from Oracle to BellHawk. BellHawk then tracks the receipt and consumption of raw materials and reports this back to Oracle. It also tracks the production of intermediate materials and finished goods and reports the inventory changes to Oracle. Finally it reports the shipments to Oracle, which are then reported to each customer by EDI.

An important aspect of this system is its extensive tracking of the quality control status of batches of parts. This enables the client to prove that defective batches are not shipped to its customers and also that any reworked batches are thoroughly tested before shipment.

By choosing BellHawk, this client was able to meet its end-customer demand for having end-to-end traceability data capture implemented within nine months. Subsequently this capability played a major role in winning a major new contract from a European automotive manufacturer.

For more information about BellHawk, please see our website at www.BellHawk.com. For a free consultation on how to solve your barcode tracking problems, please call 508-865-8070 x302.