



Case Study – Biotechnology Company

This large and rapidly growing biotechnology company has a laboratory that makes up reagents in support of a number of other company laboratories that are engaged in research and also in clinical trials. The reagent preparation laboratory makes up a large number of custom reagents each day for the laboratories that use its services.



The problems that confronted the reagent preparation laboratory, prior to its purchase of its BellHawk system were:

1. Many of the reagents that it prepares have a limited shelf life. Before the containers of reagents expire they have to be retrieved and, if needed, replaced.
2. The laboratory needs to place a hazardous materials label on each container of reagent, which has many fields that need to be completed individually for each reagent. Manual preparation of these labels was a time consuming process.
3. The laboratory needs to maintain a log of all its hazardous materials, both in the form of raw materials and in the form of reagents. In addition it needs to prepare hazardous materials reports which are time consuming when based on a manual log in a notebook.

To solve these problems, this client implemented a BellHawk PC based barcode tracking system with a number of scanning stations equipped with corded barcode scanners. In addition, one station was equipped with a barcode printer to print out the hazardous materials labels.

When a new reagent is to be prepared, the data about the reagent is entered into BellHawk. This data, plus data already stored in the BellHawk database, is used to print out a label for each bottle or other container of reagent being prepared. This label has all the needed hazardous materials information needed for the reagent plus a tracking barcode.

When the reagent has been prepared, the tracking barcode is scanned to record that the reagent has been completed and issued to the laboratory that requested the reagent.

The system tracks the expiration date of each container of reagents and produces an on-demand report of all reagents that are about to pass their expiration dates. These reagents are then retrieved from the laboratories to which they were issued, if they have not been used up or discarded.

This client is also using their BellHawk system to track containers of hazardous materials that they purchase and use in the preparation of reagents. This enables the client to generate hazardous materials reports directly from their BellHawk database.

While this client has a very extensive LIMS (laboratory information management system) it did not have the requisite barcode tracking capability. By adding a BellHawk barcode tracking system, this client was able to supplement the capabilities of their LIMS system without needed to wait for their LIMS development team to add barcode tracking capabilities to their LIMS system.

While, for this Biotechnology company as a whole, Barcode Tracking was a low priority, it was very important in reducing manual paperwork for the reagent preparation laboratory.

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.