



MEREDITH-SPRINGFIELD REDUCES HUMAN ERRORS WITH CYFRAME REAL TIME MONITORING



For over fifteen years Meredith-Springfield, a mid-size manufacturer of blow-molded plastic bottles, containers and highly-technical hollow articles, has used an ERP system from CyFrame to fully automate its manufacturing and administration processes.

Sandra Parent, Director of Corporate Administration, says, "CyFrame is extremely important to our operations. It's where we handle everything from purchasing to manufacturing to inventory to sales to financial planning and reporting.

"We have over 65 employees and all of them interface with CyFrame, be they machine operators, product packers, inspectors, supervisors, engineers or administrators. I do not know of anyone in the company that does not interact with CyFrame in some way every day."

"CyFrame gives us all this data in real time so that we can quickly assess the situation, identify the root causes and take corrective actions while we can still make a difference."

How CyFrame is used at Meredith-Springfield

Every production machine is connected to a monitoring device which collects data on the machine's efficiency. CyFrame can then produce a report showing each day's, or each shift's, efficiency by work order. There is also access to this data directly at the machines.

Sandra gives an example. "Let's say machine number one is making widgets and is expected to produce one part every twelve seconds. However, CyFrame, which has a dashboard that monitors machine efficiency, reports the machine is producing one part every 15 seconds. This allows us to identify problems and research root causes, such as a technical or operator error.

"CyFrame also tracks machine throughput and compares it to the amount of product packed. It gives us all this data in real

time so that we can quickly assess the situation, identify the root causes and take corrective actions while we can still make a difference."

Barcodes and Inventory Control

Inventory control is facilitated through the use of system programs, scanners and barcodes. The process starts with the receipt of raw material where lot numbers are scanned and the raw material inventory is immediately updated. Every time the material is utilized CyFrame adjusts inventory levels so that reorder points are quickly identified. Larger facilities can further expand this process so that inventory location is tracked.

The same is true for finished goods. As workers pack product they scan a skid label which increments finished goods inventory. Sandra says, "We know at any given time how many pieces of good product we actually have available to sell and where it is located."

CyFrame also replaced an error-prone process for tracking raw material consumption. The process involved workers having to manually report on quantities produced to calculate material consumed. This usually created an inventory gap.

Sandra says, "Workers have a wearable badge they can scan to produce finished goods labels that alleviates raw material consumed and increments finished good on hand. We now know who the operator was and the time that the product was made. We've eliminated manual errors and our inventories are much more accurate."





ERP Solutions for the Plastic Industry



Quality Control

Product goes from production to quality control where it is inspected. If QC finds a particular carton has something incorrect then that carton is rejected.

In the past, the QC people would manually type it into the computer, which was prone to errors. Today, when they reject a carton, or skid, they scan the barcode label and the product is immediately pulled out of inventory. The QC team can record a reason for the rejection. CyFrame provides a record of which carton was pulled, who was the operator that packed the product and why it was rejected. That gives Meredith-Springfield traceability to isolate problems and if necessary retrain staff.

Truck Loading and Invoicing

CyFrame also plays a key role in eliminating errors associated with the loading of trucks. Problems can arise when a forklift operator inadvertently selects the wrong pallet to be loaded on the truck. With CyFrame managing a shipping department, the forklift operators scan the pallet before it is loaded, and if it is the wrong product the operator will get a real time alert that they should not load it. Paperwork cannot be produced if the incorrect product is not deselected. This eliminates any possible chance of loading the wrong product or pallet.

Sandra says, "When the truck is ready to depart, CyFrame allows the user to print out all shipping documents including a load map which tells us exactly what work orders and pallets are on that load. When the truck has departed, press a button and an invoice is produced. It's much smoother and automates a lot of the paperwork. The result is more accurate inventories, documentation and invoicing."

Purchasing

CyFrame also has the capability to auto-generate purchase orders for raw materials. Sandra cites an example, "Let's say a customer orders 10,000 widgets. The CyFrame system checks inventory and if we have 2,000 pieces in the warehouse that are not assigned to another order, then we only need to make 8,000. CyFrame then checks the availability of raw materials by reviewing the recipe for the product. If anything is needed, such as resin or colorant or even packaging, the CyFrame purchasing system can prompt us with suggested quantities and possible suppliers and can even generate a purchase order for approval."

Working with CyFrame

"It is a phenomenal system. Ease of use, accuracy of data and efficiencies are the hallmarks of the CyFrame ERP system."

Sandra says, "When we started working with CyFrame we were a two to three million dollar company. CyFrame has supported our growth and continues to evolve along with our needs. CyFrame is a fantastic living entity that grows with a company."

"I am not one to wax eloquent about something that's a tool, but the CyFrame people took great pride in meeting and helping us grow by providing the processes and controls we needed. They worked very hard to understand our growing requirements and have helped us utilize their solution in the most efficient way possible for us. I cannot say enough positive things about the CyFrame Company, their program and their people."