Applications
CASE STUDIES

HANES
DYE AND FINISHING
A Leggett & Platt COMPANY

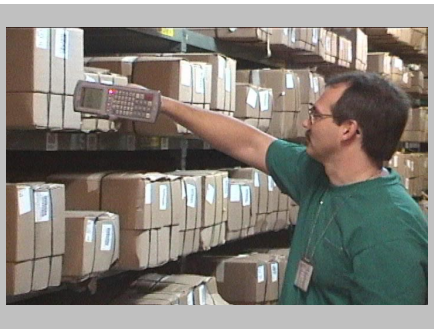
How do you automate data collection for an entire dye and finishing plant?
Integrated Visual Systems has the answer.

A custom designed data collection system used throughout the finishing process with a real-time interface to the existing host applications.

Hanes Dye and Finishing Company runs CICS manufacturing applications on an IBM S390 mainframe. Prior to the development of automated data collection, all plant floor data was captured manually and key entered into the mainframe at a later time. A project plan was developed for the implementation of ADC.

The project called for data collection throughout the manufacturing process. Areas included were greige receiving, time and attendance, access control, lot tracking, labor tracking, dye and chemical dispensing, inspection, shading, packing, production recording, finished goods tracking, picking, shipping, cycle counting. It was decided that a phased approach would be best due to the size of the implementation.

Integrated Visual Systems has provided turnkey support for all phases of the project. IVS wrote the specification, developed the Visual Basic application, provided all required hardware (radio frequency and hard-wired terminals, barcode scanners, printers, weight scale interfaces, workstations and servers, wireless networking), provided installation support and training, and provides maintenance support for the application and all hardware. To date, all phases of the project have been completed with the exception of the dye and chemical dispensing, which is on the current development schedule.



Benefits of a Turnkey Solution

The benefits to Hanes Dye and Finishing are:

- Turnkey project support from start to finish.
- Full 24/7 operation. The system runs under Window NT on Hewlett Packard Servers with Raid 5 technology. The "guts" of the system are secured in the computer room under lock and key. The system has been in continuous operation for over seven years.
- A single transaction queue to the mainframe. All data collection transactions are uploaded via this transaction queue regardless of the transaction type or data collection hardware utilized to collect the information.
- All support issues can be addressed by the IVS Help Desk. Software issues are logged and forwarded to the development team responsible for the project. Hardware problems are tracked utilizing the IVS RMA Tracking System.
- Practical upgrade path. When the system was first installed, narrow band radio frequency was utilized. The system has since been upgraded to spread spectrum with the most recent implementations utilizing 802.11 compliant 11 Mbs Direct Sequence technology.

Benefits of Automated Data Collection

Prior to implementing a real-time data collection system, the legacy systems suffered from the problems inherent with manual/batch data collection:

Redundant effort - Data was manually recorded by shop floor employees and keyed by clerical workers. Both efforts accomplished one task.

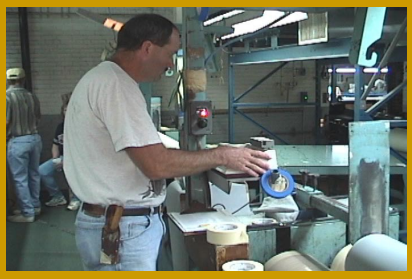
Data inaccuracy - Errors were made in writing down information, translating written data for key entry, and keying errors.

Information lag time - Data that was being keyed would be anywhere from two hours old to one day old.

Delayed order status - Customer service representatives lacked up to the minute status information on customer orders making it difficult to respond to customer inquiries.

Inventory float - Inventory which could have been shipped today would stay in the warehouse for an extra 24 to 48 hours until the mainframe was updated that it was produced.

Implementing a real-time data collection system from IVS has resolved these issues.



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