

Features and Functions

- Complete, real-time lot trace reporting
- Simplified workflow using intelligent bar code scanning
- Integration with 3rd-party software for ship/receive processes
- Multiple authorization levels for operators and managers
- Automatic handling of mixed, combined, and split WIP lots
- On-line editing & data validation via wireless networking

Case Study: Liquid Molding Systems, Inc.

OnSite™ for Lot Tracking

CRITICAL BUSINESS ISSUES

Liquid Molding Systems, Inc. (LMS), a pioneer in precision liquid silicone injection molding, produces a wide range of silicone components for the food and medical industries, including its line of unique bi-directional and one-way silicone valves.

In order to provide superior customer service, LMS tracks in detail each lot of parts it produces, beginning with the raw silicon and pigments mixed in the molding machines, and including the various tools and dies, workstations, and even employees who worked on each batch. However, tracking was performed entirely by hand, using small lot cards which were passed along with each work-in-process (WIP) container as the parts traveled through the production sequence.

Hand recording all of this information at each production step added significant overhead costs and time to the manufacturing process. The information was kept on small cards which were occasionally lost or misplaced, and when a lot trace had to be performed, it required a considerable amount of manual effort to sort through the cards to determine all of the relationships between batches.

SOLUTION

Since LMS already had a lot-trace system in place, the challenge was to automate the collection, management, and reporting of that data. Cimulus worked closely with LMS to design a workflow that labeled raw materials immediately upon receipt, labeled each workstation, die, and employee badge, and provided simple scan-and-approve sequences to capture lot information as the containers of WIP moved through production.



Using OnSite, a data collection system for shop-floor data collection with a built-in lot-trace module, Cimulus configured and installed a system which used wireless bar code scanners to interact with operators and capture the lot data, storing it to an open, centralized database.

Cimulus also designed and implemented an interactive, web-based lot trace report that allows LMS to quickly identify lots and lot-trace relationships in real time.

BENEFITS

The OnSite system completely replaced the hand-written lot cards, allowing LMS to collect lot data with substantially less effort and with a higher accuracy and confidence. Lot trace reporting has been dramatically simplified, with queries, which used to take 12 or more man-hours to complete now available in just seconds, propelling LMS to new levels of customer service.

Elmutaz Mirghani, IS Coordinator for LMS, said "Since this was our first bar code scanning project, we wanted a company that could provide the level of service and support we would need. Cimulus delivered, and installing OnSite has been a great step forward for us."