

THE COMPANY

SteriPack Medical is a medical services company specialising in flexible medical packaging, contract assembly and offering some of the shortest lead times in the industry while at all times ensuring the highest level of quality and flexibility.

SteriPack generate a turnover in excess of €18m with a customer base that includes many of the major blue chip medical companies with exports to 33 countries worldwide.



The SteriPack facility is situated in Clara, Co. Offaly, a one-hour drive from Dublin. The plant extends to over 70,000 sq. ft. and includes a class 100,000 clean room where all manufacturing takes place. This has recently been extended to a second building at the SteriPack site. Manufacturing, administrative and warehousing functions are based at the main facility with additional warehousing present in the second building.

'Our existing Data Collection product was not up to the job. We needed a 100% reliable solution.'

THE CHALLENGE

SteriPack had previously operated a data collection package, which updated QAD Enterprise Applications with an advanced form of CIM load using an external database. Operators found that using this systems was both cumbersome and time consuming; they also had to revert to standard QAD Enterprise Applications to confirm transactions had actually completed.

Many reverted to recording data with paper and pen; later they updated QAD Enterprise Applications at a PC that led to the data collection system falling into disuse.

There were technical difficulties with the application, as it required restarting of the service separate to QAD Enterprise Applications.

This was summarised by Eoghan Dunbar, IT Support & Development at SteriPack "The previous system was very slow, unreliable and required constant technical support from the IT department."

The decision to replace the current system with RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications was detailed by Eamon Martin, Materials Manager: "In short our existing data collection product was not up to the job. We needed a 100% reliable solution".

Due to internal pressures a challenging timescale was put in place for the full implementation to be completed within five weeks (including the Christmas shutdown).



The key requirements for the initial implementation of RF Express for QAD Enterprise Applications were to simplify the processes and technology whilst maintaining and managing item expiry dates on; goods receiving, shipment processing, inventory transfers and cycle counting.

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MEDICAL

Leading Innovation In Packaging

The requirements can be detailed as follows:

- **Barcode labelling and goods receiving.** Standardise registration, identification and label generation of all incoming product to facilitate booking of inventory, lot references, initiation of expiry dates and subsequent picking activities.

- **Real-time (barcode) validation of parts picked against sales order** Present the “picker” with a list of items on the hand-held device and allow scanning of the item barcode and lot reference. A real-time check of items picked against the sales order is required to improve right first time in order picking – incorrectly scanned items or items with invalid expiry dates must be rejected.
- **Significant reduction in paperwork.** Dispatch paperwork reduced to system generated packing list and certificate of conformance; eliminate all hand written documentation and unnecessary duplications.
- **Multi-pick capability** Implemented a process where it is possible to pick against a sales order without having to re-run sales order allocations when new production becomes available.



- **Ease of transactions.** The RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications transactions are simple to use and have therefore been easily adopted by the warehouse personnel.
- **Increased Data Accuracy.** The use of barcodes and scanning of the goods has removed typing and writing errors.
- **Accurate Inventory Levels.** By recording at the time of Receipt, Transfer and Picking an accurate picture of raw materials and finished goods can be obtained.
- **Speed of Transactions.** Recording in real time using RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications has reduced the time required to record and verify the unloading of trucks.

Eamon Martin summarised the project: “We achieved a very rapid and successfully implemented RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications in just five weeks. RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications is very stable and consistent. Operators now prefer to carry out the transactions via the handheld.”

HOW EAGLE MET THE CHALLENGE

Today SteriPack use RF Express for QAD Enterprise Applications to portably record all purchase order receipts, inventory transfers and finished goods picking transactions in real time using Intermec wireless handheld terminals.

As part of the implementation a more efficient warehouse process was incorporated that standardised the method of handling inventory transactions whilst allowing the use of existing labels and documentation.

THE RESULTS

SteriPack reports the following benefits from the introduction of RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications:

- **Reduced system administration.** RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications requires minimal support from the IT department and has freed up resource for other projects.

‘We successfully implemented RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications in just five weeks’

THE FUTURE

After the success of the first phase of the implementation, SteriPack are looking to use RF Express™ for QAD Enterprise Applications to support their growth in their business including Lean Manufacturing techniques and labour recording.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?:

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