

Amcor Injects Performance into Warehousing

Amcor is proud of its tagline: “Innovative Packaging.” In fact, its inventive culture helped the Australian-based firm become one of the top three packaging companies in the world. So, when faced with the complexities of a globalized supply chain and customer base, Amcor’s PET (Polyethylene Terephthalate) division chose to think outside the box – becoming an early adopter of Apriso’s FlexNet Warehouse Management for Manufacturers solution.

The Apriso solution offers an innovative, integrated approach to improve quality, execute Lean processes, manage packaging operations and improve operations performance. Amcor realized these benefits by synchronizing production and warehouse functions both inside the plant and across their enterprise. Currently implemented at 50 Amcor PET packaging facilities around the world, Apriso’s WMS for Manufacturers solution integrates with Amcor’s SAP system to synchronize warehouse, quality, packaging and production processes. Benefits include improving visibility of operations while increasing control of material flows and production processes.

Improved Inventory Accuracy and Traceability

Like many manufacturers, Amcor had been challenged with maintaining inventory accuracy and complete traceability across its global operations. Apriso now provides complete tracking and traceability from warehouse receiving docks through final delivery to their customers. The company has deployed handheld and truck-mounted devices, bar-coded labels and automated guided vehicles (AGVs) that connect directly to the Apriso system, which then orchestrates movements of materials, semi-finished and finished goods. With end-to-end tracking, Amcor has improved inventory accuracy to greater than 99 percent. “FlexNet provides an easy cycle counting process we can trust. Automated processes have replaced the need for wall-to-wall physical inventories or paper tracking of product genealogies,” said Lee Allen Pree, chief information officer, Amcor PET.

Quality and Containment Management

Amcor has used Apriso to achieve full traceability and genealogy from raw materials to finished goods. Every plant can now trace quality from pre-forms to raw materials used for each lot or batch, to effectively manage quality and respond faster to customer demands. These factors are especially important at Amcor’s co-located plants where finished goods are moved directly from the shop floor to the customer’s blowing or filling lines. In this type of environment, response time to unforeseen quality issues is critical. Quickly identifying and quarantining suspect materials is paramount for customer satisfaction.



Benefits Achieved

- 99% inventory accuracy
- IT costs at 0.7% of revenues
- Improved customer satisfaction
- Entire enterprise supported by just two IT staff members
- Manage system changes from a single location
- Simple user interface for employees in warehouse

A Global Lean Solution to Simplify, Reduce Waste

Amcor PET Packaging runs its plants 365 days a year, with close to Just in Time deliveries. By automating previously manual processes spanning warehouse, production and quality operations, inventory and packaging accuracy has been substantially improved by eliminating human errors and validating customer specifications and packaging requirements. For example, waste can be removed from Amcor's value chain by reducing transportation within the warehouse, producing fewer defects, creating less idle inventory and optimizing the movement of materials, people and equipment within the warehouse.

Auto-ticketing capabilities ensure the right ticket is put on the right product so it is shipped right – with the right number of tiered pallets – the first time, improving on-time delivery performance and customer satisfaction. The Apriso solution helps eliminate packaging errors and mis-shipments, a major competitive positioning factor, helping remove 'muda' or waste from operations. With a system virtually guaranteeing 24x7 availability across a global network of warehouses and production facilities, the company has achieved substantial Lean benefits.

"Amcor selected Apriso for its unique global footprint, connecting all areas of our enterprise. This has allowed us to standardize operations and extend best practices for better quality control," explained Parea. More than 3,600 Amcor PET Packaging employees use Apriso in the United States, Latin America and Canada. At larger sites, Apriso exchanges over 10,000 transactions every day with enterprise, global applications. The Apriso solution automates and manages plant activity of 25+ million units per day at co-located and remote sites in real-time, helping to reduce the possibility of error and other wasteful activities.

Ease of Use Reduces Costs

Another benefit of Apriso's WMS for Manufacturers solution has been its ease of use as a seamless system to communicate in real-time with other operations and quality processes. Simple, directive transaction screens show only what is needed in the warehouse; full functionality is maintained should enterprise system's connectivity be interrupted. After just four hours of training, operators were up and running. Ease of use translates into cost savings. "We run our entire system with just two full-time IT employees – remarkable for an organization of our size," said Parea. "Thanks to Apriso, our overall IT costs are just 0.7 percent of revenues, less than half the industry average."

Managing to Metrics to Improve Quality, Reduce Waste

Amcor uses Apriso's WMS solution to analyze operations performance metrics spanning from the shop floor to the warehouse for comparisons across multiple facilities. Apriso has enabled meaningful visibility into operations performance, providing an actionable interface for quick resolution of inventory, shipment or quality issues, supporting a culture of continuous improvement. Apriso is now considered a strategic partner and enterprise standard for Amcor.

About Apriso

Apriso Corporation is a software company dedicated to helping manufacturers achieve and sustain operational excellence. Apriso serves 180+ customers in 40+ countries across the Americas, Europe and Asia. Learn more at <http://www.apriso.com>.

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Amcor PET Packaging