Case Study – Food Processor

This BellHawk client processes and distributes fruit and vegetable oils. They purchase the oils in bulk tanker trucks and store the oils in silos. They then blend the oils and package them for retail, wholesale and restaurant use.

Most finished products are bottled, packed into boxes and palletized. These are then stored in a warehouse until they are picked, packed and shipped by truck. They also pack oil in large reusable plastic containers that are delivered to and picked up from restaurants.

The reasons that this client chose to implement a barcode tracking system was:

1. To track their finished goods inventory in real–time.

2. To make sure that they were picking and shipping the containers of oil in an age–first order from inventory.

3. To prevent mistakes in picking and shipping.

4. To track which lots and containers went to which customers.

5. To maintain electronic tracking and traceability records.

This client uses about a dozen wireless mobile computers to track finished goods from the end of the packing lines, through the warehouse, to picking packing and shipping. They also have barcode printers integrated into their BellHawk system to print out the barcoded labels for the boxes and pallets.

This tracking system is integrated with a Sage ERP system. Orders are entered into the Sage system and then automatically relayed to the BellHawk system for processing. The BellHawk system then tracks the finished goods until they are shipped. As part of this process, BellHawk reports the finished goods produced back to the Sage System. It also automatically reports shipments to customers against orders.

This BellHawk implementation was an example of successful team collaboration. It was implemented by the support organization for the Sage ERP system acting as a prime–contractor. BellHawk System provided supporting software customization and integration services but all the installation, training and client support has been provided by the BellHawk Solution Partner.

This implementation took over a year to implement due to the need for the client to reorganize their parts numbering scheme and to re–label their warehouse. They are now up and running but still tweaking their finished goods tracking system. In future they plan to use this system to track their raw materials and their packing operations.

Implementing a barcode tracking system using wireless mobile computers was a big step for this family owned business. But it was a testament to the vision of the next generation management that they saw the need to embrace technology if the rapid growth of this very successful business was to continue without them being impeded by paperwork systems.

For more information about BellHawk, please see our website at www.BellHawk.com. For a free consultation on how to solve your barcode tracking problems, please call 508–865–8070 x302.