

Bar Codes and RFID Technology Benefits-Justification

The Challenges of Today

Across industries, maintaining a storeroom today poses a number of complexities and challenges.

Inventory Accuracy

As e-commerce has become the norm, manufacturers and distributors must ship out more products, more frequently. Production facilities must collaborate with widespread partners and supply chains around the world to get what they need, when they need it, in order to meet demand. As a result companies are under increasing pressure to know exactly what materials and assets are on hand at all times.

Barcode labeling enables storerooms to quickly and easily understand and locate their inventory, down to the individual item. This provides significant ability to deliver quickly and accurately when parts are requested.

Reduced Costs

Prices continue to rise for raw materials. Keeping these materials, which may not all be needed, necessitates reducing physical storage space. It requires maintaining an adequate but minimal labor force for moving and managing spare parts. It mandates reducing electricity, heating and cooling, and other energy considerations. All of which can spike company costs, at the expense of profit.

Increased Productivity

Storerooms need the ability to respond to their customers to address demand for the needed parts. The demand could be for a planned or unplanned equipment repair. This requires the utmost in productivity throughout the storeroom, along with the entire supply chain. Requesting, ordering, receiving, stocking, issuing and all activities that support efficient storeroom performance are areas that cause non-value activities. The overall objective is to provide the right part, at the right cost, in the right quantity, at the right time to support the maintenance team.

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With details on what is moving in and out of the storeroom, the storeroom manager or inventory coordinator can see what materials are really needed and when. They can identify opportunities to reduce stocking quantities to use the storage space more efficiently and convert some items to an order on demand status. Both of these options increase the utilization of the available storeroom space and reduce the inventory investment.

Increasing productivity

Real time visibility of the inventory can also illustrate how it's moving through the storeroom. Confidence that the on-hand quantities are correct in the CMMS is a critical factor for the Maintenance or Shift Supervisor and the Maintenance Planner. Understanding inventory usage levels and the anticipated demand for those parts increases the confidence that the right parts will be in stock and in the right quantity to manage the risk of premature equipment failures. Are there areas of inefficiency? Opportunities to optimize processes? Answering these questions with good data can help companies turn inventory faster, reduce inventory spend, and even providing better security and safety throughout the workplace.