



automotive case study >>>



Cost-saving control solutions for PPE

Futaba-Tenneco UK is a world class supplier of pressed parts and welded assemblies. Their main customer is a world leader in the automotive sector and to meet the very high volume requirement of car sets annually Futaba-Tenneco UK have made a substantial investment in new machinery, equipment and workforce training.



Installation of new technology means higher levels of productivity and efficiency. However the demands of cost-down to be more competitive is ever present throughout any business and when Futaba-Tenneco UK investigated the control and management of PPE the solution proved to be very positive, practical and hugely beneficial to the bottom line.

Health and safety legislation itemises adequate storage, clean workspace and space saving objectives so having looked at a number of suppliers and systems Futaba-Tenneco UK set out their parameters to purchase a storage and software system with proven reliability, accuracy, flexibility, remote monitoring and in-house control.

The QUICKVEND system fulfilled all the objectives in a complete, cost effective package of equipment and software

Jeff Seddon, Operations Manager said "Most important, the QUICKVEND system put us in control. It gave us total flexibility to tailor the stock, its accessibility and to benefit from the reports and audits. The equipment is half the cost of their competitor's previous system, and very reliable in providing round-the-clock PPE to our workforce."

QUICKVEND installed two cabinets adjacent to the shopfloor entrances during the factory shutdown period in August 2012. Each cabinet is stocked with health and safety equipment including gloves, ear plugs, protective sleeves and safety glasses. All items are stored individually in re-usable plastic containers, arranged and presented in lanes, at different shelf heights and delivered by a pick and lift system. All items are coded and visible through the clear glass frontage.

Each of the 180 employees is given a smart swipe card containing their clock-in number for identification. Smart cards are produced on site in a couple of minutes, using an inkjet printer and plastic card blanks that can last up to a year. Employees/operatives are allowed free access to the QUICKVEND cabinets and insert their identity card plus product code to vend the chosen item at a rate of one item per card insertion.

In-built software records each transaction and communicates the details online to both Futaba-Tenneco's management team leader and their supplier of the items. Their supplier advises on and sources a full range of competitively priced products for each application and re-stocked using FIFO (first in-first out) to make sure the oldest stock is used first.

Regular meetings with management are used to discuss product and analyse reports covering all aspects of product vending including overall, departmental and individual use. Both parties can see a complete itinerary of consumables and their usage. This in turn can influence how stock is maintained, where it is displayed and, under certain circumstances, only allow access by selected operatives to specialist items.

For instance one of the welding processes requires the use of an expensive ceramic spray to reduce 'splatter'. It is therefore only made accessible to certain individuals carrying out the process.

Product variation and trialing are also easily facilitated and Futaba-Tenneco is considering employee reports on trialed items like gloves to aid dexterity and prescription safety glasses for added eye protection.

A wide variety of items is supplied for dispensing including tools, work wear, safety equipment and specialist consumables, and with min-max control, including "early warning" alert levels, continuity of supply is maintained, and costly contingency measures for "stock-outs" avoided.

In the case of Futaba-Tenneco UK, the application of vending as a solution has been very effective with savings amounting to tens of thousands of pounds within just a few months.

Futaba-Tenneco UK has proved how their decision to install QUICKVEND equipment, monitored and stocked by their supplier, with empowered employees, can manage and deliver health and safety to benefit everyone.

Using QUICKVEND equipment and software has provided the company with 'one stop' compliance to H&S regulations for Consumables, PPE and COSHH. In addition supply, stocking and dispensing have full traceability with an audit trail in case of accidents.

QUICKVEND offer and install a range of complete vending and dispensing solutions including Helix Machines, Lift Machines, Locker Systems, Calibration Control Units and bespoke systems designed to suit the product, device and/or accessory. The choice of controlled access methods for operators includes Smart Card, PIN code, Biometric, Bar Code, Magstripe and E-key.

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