

Datalogic Scanning Case Study

Datalogic PowerScan® Hand-held Scanners Improve Warehouse Efficiency



Wood Products Producer Takes Control of Inventory & Shipping

Roseburg Forest Products, a manufacturer of plywood, lumber, specialty panels, and engineered wood products, was using an antiquated manual inventory tracking system. They looked to Datalogic Scanning for answers, and with the help of Datalogic's rugged PowerScan® handheld scanner, their inventory speed and efficiency greatly improved, giving them more control over an essential part of their business.



the United States and Canada, but their success put quite a burden on their inventory and shipping functions.

"We didn't have a good feel for our inventory. We weren't confident we had what we said we had out there," says Rich Edera, RFP's Shipping Supervisor. "The product mix here at Dillard is extensive. We have over 2,000 products and we don't have 2,000 places where we can put them. We didn't have a good handle on our inventory."

Each inventory cycle count meant 16 people working six and a half hours each, for a total of 104 hours combined, to count on-hand stock for storage and shipping. And with the hand counting, human error could mean up to a 10% error rate. All this was troubling to a company that prided itself on efficiency and customer service. Roseburg Forest Products was ripe for innovation.

Customer Profile

Roseburg Forest Products

Industry

Construction-related wood products, mostly sold in home centers, including plywood, studs, particleboard, and laminated beams.

Datalogic Scanning Product

PowerScan® industrial strength hand-held scanner

Geography

8 plywood plants, particleboard plants, and sawmills, plus 800,000 acres of timberlands in Southern Oregon and Northern California.

The Challenge

Roseburg Forest Products, a 750-million dollar wood products company in Southern Oregon, has had their share of ups and downs in their 60-year history. Having made it through two decades of dwindling log supplies, RFP is one of many wood products companies in the West that reconsidered its strategies and retooled its operations.

More than just a survivor, they have excelled. With over 3,000 employees producing environmentally-conscious plywood, particle board, lumber, and various engineered wood products for building construction, including large laminated beams, they are at the top of their game. RFP ships finished products to home centers by truck and rail car throughout

The Solution

RFP decided to automate their inventory counts. They brought in many industry-leading handheld bar code scanning vendors, including Datalogic Scanning with their rugged PowerScan scanners, and did extensive side-by-side testing.

"We looked for reliability and scanning distance in particular was important to us, because we stack pretty high in our warehouses. The PowerScan industrial strength scanners were by far the best distance shooters."



“We’re focused on our customers, we’re focused on quality, we’re focused on on-time shipments, and we think Datalogic Scanning is going to give us that ability to bring it on into the future.”

- Rich Edera, RFP Shipping Supervisor



Rich and his team were quickly won over by PowerScan scanners, with their impressive performance and reputation for ruggedness.

“For our purposes, we felt that Datalogic Scanning had the superior product by far,” says Edera.

Results

But as they say, the proof is in the pudding, and through many months of cycle counts and shipments since

implementation, the PowerScan scanners have proven to be an exceptional tool and a worthy investment for RFP.

Employee Efficiency and ROI

RFP immediately began to see a dramatic increase in productivity of their shipping personnel. The 16 people working 104 hours dropped to 2 people working 5 hours, allowing them to be assigned to tasks elsewhere. Plus, the accounting error rate dropped from 10% to virtually zero. And ROI was quickly realized as well.

“Literally, everytime we did an inventory count, we paid for our equipment,” says Edera.

Because of the increased efficiency and quick stockroom lookup, RFP’s hardwood setup person decreased his preparation time of 3 to 6 hours down to an hour and a half. That resulted in increased orders.

“We went from 2 or 3 orders a day, up to where we can now setup 8 or 10, easily.”

Quality

Another promise delivered by the Datalogic PowerScan was its trademark rugged dependability. In a sawmill, dust is always present, and conditions are always harsh.

“Datalogic Scanning scanners have held up exceptionally well considering the process we put them through,” claims Edera. “We work in a tremendous amount of dust, we work in a tremendous amount of heat, we work in a tremendous amount of cold - it goes to all seasons. Everything considered, they’ve held up considerably well. We’ve been very happy with the quality of them.”

Customer Satisfaction

All this has, of course, made RFP managers and employees happy, but the efficiency has extended to their customers as well. With a delivery system as large as RFP’s, a weak link in the chain is felt on down the line. Roseburg Forest Products has improved its railroad bills of lading and has been able to produce more effective load diagrams for its truck and rail carriers.

The next step for RFP is a wireless system. Edera is excited about Roseburg Forest Products’ future, and its solid partnership with Datalogic Scanning.

“We know it’s going to be a long-term relationship, and we want to move with them, and we want them to move with us as our needs expand. We’re focused on our customers, we’re focused on quality, we’re focused on on-time shipments, and we think Datalogic Scanning is going to give us that ability to bring it on into the future.”

About Datalogic Scanning, Inc.

Datalogic Scanning, Inc., an autonomous division of Datalogic S.p.A., is the recognized worldwide leader in retail fixed position scanners and hand-held scanners. Datalogic Scanning leads the market with its flexible, responsive customer service and offers a broad array of technology, products, and services in the retail automation and automated data-capture market. Datalogic Scanning products and services support multiple industries throughout the retail supply chain, distribution channel, manufacturing, government, healthcare, banking and finance sectors.

Datalogic has developed a worldwide network of over 500 partners in over 40 countries, selected and qualified to offer the highest level of services and solutions in the industry. With a presence in over 100 countries, the headquarters, primary development, marketing, and major manufacturing facilities for Datalogic Scanning are located in Eugene, Oregon, USA, while sales and service offices are located throughout the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Pacific Rim.



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