

Case Study

Aviall
Dallas, TX



Founded in 1932, Aviall is the world's largest independent distributor of new aviation parts, and a leading provider of inventory information services. The company represents some 180 manufacturers and distributes and markets parts to over 13,000 general aviation operators and more than 300 airlines worldwide. In addition, Aviall provides economical repairs and support services on aviation batteries, hoses, wheels, brakes and tires. Aviall employs over 700 people and has recognized annual sales of more than \$380 million dollars.

WMS Implementation

Aviall purchased the Catalyst WMS with initial goals of improving their inventory accuracy and achieving ISO9002 certification. Being in the aviation industry, precision, accuracy and product tracking are critical to Aviall's business.

On September 4, 1995, Aviall installed the Catalyst WMS running on an IBM RS/6000 and Oracle database with direct communication to over 50 Symbol Radio Frequency (RF) terminals.

The Dallas, TX Facility

This site inventories aviation replacement parts such as aviation batteries, hoses, wheels, brakes and tires that are shipped to private, corporate and commercial airlines.

Physically, the site covers over 160,000 square feet with over 75 warehouse employees, 54 concurrent RF users and 30 VDTs. Due to the large amount of parts, this site has approximately 30,000 SKUs and 87,613 locations that may be broken down into 78,051 bin locations and 9,562 bulk locations. On the outbound side, 70,000 line items are shipped per month and on the inbound side, 12,700 line items are received per month. In addition, there are 90,000 items in the WMS system and 30,000 items with on hand quantity.

Product Movement

Product is moved throughout the site in pallets and eaches. On the inbound side, the product is received by pallets and broken down into eaches. Because Aviall supplies single parts throughout the aviation repair business, there is very little pallet and case activity. In fact, 90-100% of the products are picked in broken cases and shipped in eaches. On the outbound side, once the product is ready for order fulfillment, it is shipped in small quantities to repair shops via FedEx, UPS and LTL.

Unique Features

Unique to Aviall's business is its "tote routine." This involves filling orders from all areas of the warehouse. Once orders have been filled, they are consolidated for shipping.

Another unique feature of this facility is its Spec2000 bar code label. This type of label is a requirement for the airlines industry and is a specification of standard formats to exchange information between airlines and their suppliers. It is specifically tailored to the airline industry's needs for procurement and repair transactions for aircraft maintenance.

Goals Met

Inventory accuracy has reached an amazing 99%. By automating their warehouse, Aviall can easily do cycle counts and track products throughout the warehouse.

Catalyst played a key in Aviall becoming ISO9002 certified. Aviall is now able to trace inventory for FAA Government Regulations. With Catalyst, Aviall traces inventory from each supplier to customers.

Customized Services at aviall.com

Aviall customers can use aviall.com to create part quotes in real-time, place orders, check inventory, view Aviall's online parts catalog, search for parts and track shipments electronically. A new multiple line order entry function has been added to the system, as well as electronic order acknowledgement features. Customers also have access to download, print or view Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) online.

Facts At A Glance

Industry: World's largest independent parts distributor of aviation parts and a leading provider of inventory information services

Dallas, TX facility: Distributes replacement parts to airlines, regional airlines, and all facets of the general aviation market

Size: 167,800 square feet, 54 RF users, 30 VDTs

Locations: 30,000 SKUs and 87,613 locations

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