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8 Reasons to Upgrade to an ERP System Designed for Multiplant Corrugated Operations
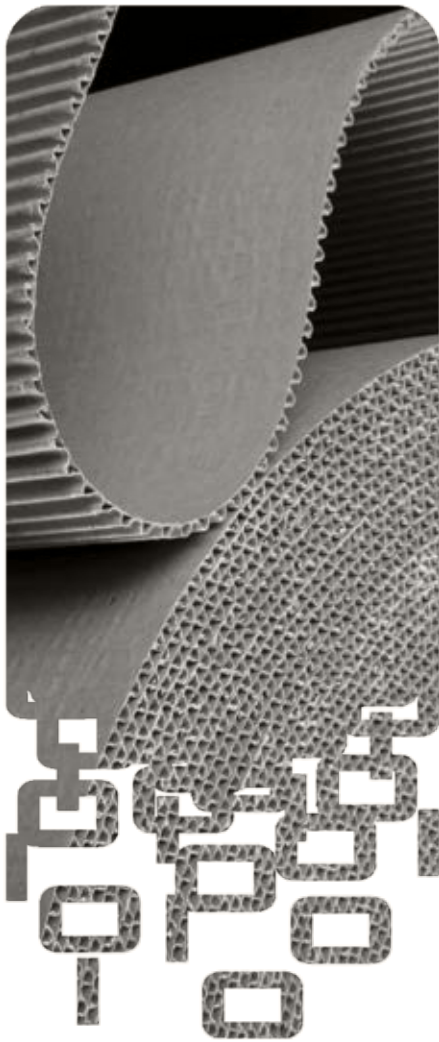
Introduction

If you're like most corrugated packaging manufacturers, your company operates multiple plants where each plant uses a different enterprise resource planning (ERP) system. This arrangement of multiple ERP systems could be costing you valuable time and money and promoting inefficiencies such as manual data entry.

Ways to improve efficiency

Upgrading to a single ERP system designed for multiplant operations can help you solve these issues and more. Here are eight ways how your plant network can improve efficiencies with a single ERP system designed for multi- plant operations:

One: utilize one database

If you use separate ERP systems at each plant, you're managing several databases. With one ERP system designed for multiplant operations, you capture information in a central database, which allows you to standardize what's collected for apples-to-apples comparisons with management dashboards and in-depth reporting.

Two: enable interplant transactions

Selling materials like roll stock and sheets between plants is painless with an ERP system that supports multiplant operations and bar-code scanning. In this closed-loop system, users simply scan the items as they enter and exit each location. There's no need to re-label or re-enter the transactions at both sites. Likewise, materials and finished goods can easily be transferred between plants.

Three: simplify IT

Have you calculated the resources required to maintain the different hardware and software configurations of your separate ERP systems? You can reduce IT requirements using one ERP system with multiplant support. In this arrangement there is one environment to maintain from a centralized location, simplifying the deployment of upgrades and patches.

Four: maintain one customer master file

Rather than maintain a separate file for each database used by each ERP system, a multiplant ERP system enables one customer master file for all plants. If you have national accounts that order from multiple local plants, each local plant saves time by checking credits against the one master account.

Five: harmonize system codes

Each plant in your network may have many codes (like board codes and defaults) configured within its ERP system. Harmonizing codes across plants using a multiplant ERP system allows for one set of business procedures. If you operate four plants in the country and Plant B becomes overloaded, an employee can be transferred from Plant A to Plant B, with minimal need for retraining because this employee sees the same system and procedures, with potentially only minor localized changes.

In addition to efficient workload balancing across the entire enterprise, you can simplify and improve the internal efficiencies for your multiplant corrugated operation with a single ERP system designed to support multiple plants and currencies.

With one ERP system designed for multiplant operations, you capture information in a central database, which allows you to standardize what's collected for apples-to-apples comparisons.

Six: improve security

A multiplant ERP system can improve security at the plant, warehouse and branch level. Based on the user's needs, you can grant them access to the information from one or more plants, warehouses or branches. For example, if you have particular users who spend time in two plants they would be able to access the information needed to complete their tasks in both plants. Likewise, these users would be unable to access data from the other plants.

Seven: enhance auditing

It's time to conduct an audit to ensure your employees fulfill their roles at the company. This process can be time consuming if the required information is tracked manually or differently between plants. A multiplant ERP system improves the auditing process because the system tracks every transaction by user: what was made, when it was made, and who made it.

Eight: implement multi-currency support

Doing business globally means dealing with multiple currencies. A multiplant ERP system with multi-currency support minimizes manual currency conversions for sales quotes and invoices. Each plant can set its own base currency and define customer currencies, and an enterprise currency can be set for apples-to-apples comparisons.

Conclusion

In addition to efficient workload balancing across the entire enterprise, you can simplify and improve the internal efficiencies of your multiplant corrugated operation with a single ERP system designed to support multiple plants and currencies.

Epicor BVP for corrugated manufacturers lets you manage multiplant and multi-national operations with ease. With multiplant, multi-currency and multi-language support, this corrugated business software is designed to increase efficiency and improve customer satisfaction, while providing complete control over your key processes: estimating, order management, job costing, profitability analysis, production, radio frequency (RF) inventory control, delivery and invoicing.

About Epicor

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