

Pierce County, Washington Adds Barcode Functionality to Their Inventory Operations

Over two years ago, Pierce County, Washington contacted several municipalities who were very interested in adding barcode functionality to their inventory software system. However, none were ready to take that first investment step. Last year, Pierce County decided to blaze the barcoding trail and went live this year with a working barcode system for their million dollar wastewater treatment parts warehouse.

The long awaited barcode functionality is now streamlining the daily operations of the County's warehouse, which supports the Chambers Creek Wastewater treatment plant as well as 550 miles of pipe, 96 sewage pump stations, 840 residential pumps, and several vehicles in the field. A total of 40 employees now use the barcoding system with two data entry people working in the warehouse. To manage these assets, Pierce County currently licenses Hansen's Sewer, Plant, and Customer Service modules with the "Inventory Control Advanced" component.

When requesting a part in the past, employees would hand-write the part number on a form and hand it over to be keyed into the system by one of the two employees behind the counter. Today, the time it takes to set up the scanner to scan both the part number and location may take about as long as it did hand-writing the numbers, but the benefits are still overwhelming. Not only is the data entry clearly more accurate, but the new batch uploading process represents a significant time-savings over manual data entry.

Of course, the benefits are obvious and old news to any retail chain or grocery store. Bringing the warehouse up to these standards required an initial investment in time and effort. Barcodes for part numbers were placed on the part or bin in one direction and the location barcode placed in another direc-

tion to avoid inaccurate scanning. Finally, Larry Butner, Pierce County's Lead Maintenance Technician says "it's been a training process, but well worth the effort."

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Larry Butner
Pierce County
Lead Maintenance Technician

A variety of systems brought this functionality together for Pierce County. They are using Intermec's barcode scanners, Seagull Scientific's "Bartender" scanner labeling software, JMT System's barcode interface to Hansen Information Technologies'

Version 7.5, and Hansen's Tool, Version 7.5 Data Migration utility. One of the major hurdles was getting the barcode interface to Hansen's Version 7.5 developed. JMT System's barcode interface could not have been developed without the invaluable input of Pierce County's user base. "I wanted to get users involved immediately," said Mike Bosko, JMT System's owner and lead developer. Larry Butner added, "Mike was one of the best people we've ever worked with; he wants his product to be perfect. We're very happy with the new barcode functionality." For more information on getting your agency barcode operational, please contact Mike Bosko at 509-968-9015 (info@jmtsystems.com) or Hansen's Jarrod Gerbaud at 916-921-0883 x3519 (jarrod.gerbaud@hansen.com).

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