

Case Study – Wire Mill Shop Floor without Administration Staffing

A current client opened a new facility and it was decided that the new facility would not have any administration personnel and wished to administer all functions from a central office. A shop floor system was needed which would allow receipt of material, post production against scheduled orders, create process and finished goods tags and allow shipments to be created along with all shipping and invoice paperwork. The task required also included quality assurance testing to be entered by the same workers without the need to have knowledge of metallurgical requirements.

To ease the learning curve, the program of choice was programmed in a dot net environment allowing the use of many of the newer functions available which allowed the system to easily interact with the main Praetor systems at the central office and provide a short learning curve for the workers.

Programs reside at the new site and an MS SQL database access is updated directly using a VPN between the central office and the new facility.

Programming began and was completed within a two week period. The shop floor tracking and reporting system along with inventory control functioned as expected. Due to the fact that the shop floor system was totally integrated with the main Praetor systems, it was unnecessary to require additional support personnel at the new location.

Purchase orders for material are created and issued from the main office and, as delivery is made at the new facility, the system allows direct matching to the purchase orders in the main system. The inventory is automatically updated on receipt and normal accounts payable invoices are matched to the receipts in the central office and processed.

Scheduling is performed on orders from the central office and placed on the equipment in the new facility. The shop floor program allows easy entry of production of the orders. The shop schedule is available as a view directly from the shop floor along with the ability to produce a machine line up if required.

Once production has been reported and the last operation has been performed, testing is accomplished directly from a testing work station on the floor. The Praetor product specification is automatically referenced and customized tests are made available to the shop floor as needed, along with standardized wire mill testing. If a coil of material passes all of the testing it is transferred to finished goods, a finished goods tag is printed, and the product is made available for shipment. All testing results are available to the shop floor as well as to the main office.

Production activity may be reviewed by the central office in real time which allows open communications with the remote shop floor to receive clarification of results. All changes made by the central office or the shop floor are immediately available to all locations.

Shipment is handled directly by the shop floor program and a bill of lading is produced and materials are added directly to the bill. Multiple orders may be added to one bill of lading and all appropriate certifications and shipping lists are produced. The inventory is relieved and an electronic invoice is created which is reviewed and issued from the central office.

The implementation of the Praetor Manufacturing System provided the foundation for the newly developed shop floor eliminating the need to hire additional office personnel to handle a fully functional facility. Since the implementation of Praetor, the cost of maintaining information was reduced by over twenty five percent and the Company benefited from an increase in order processing effectiveness.