

OMD Bar Code Scanning: Benefits make it easy to cost justify

Prior to using OMD Bar Code Scanning, Albin Business Centers in Farmington, Michigan, inventoried the car stock of their 98 technicians on an annual basis. "From the time it took for the technician to pull into the driveway at the main office to have a full car stock inventoried and then pull out again," says Greg Yauch, VP of Technical Operations at Albin, "it took 4 to 6 hours. Since implementing OMD Bar Code Scanning, the same process takes less than an hour. Multiply that time savings of 3 to 5 hours per technician by Albin's 98 technicians at a burden rate of \$40.00 per hour, and you have an average savings of over \$15,000 per inventory cycle of car stock alone." And that's just the beginning.

Before implementing OMD Bar Code Scanning, Albin ran inventory count sheets and had someone key in the data while technicians waited around to help catch mistakes. With OMD Bar Code Scanning, inventory is scanned, the data is uploaded directly into OMD, and the potential for keystroke errors is gone. The position of the data entry person was eliminated. From here, it gets even better.

Albin Business Centers covers a territory of 28,000 square miles. Prior to using OMD Bar Code Scanning, technicians drove to the main office to have their car stock inventoried. With the implementation of OMD Bar Code Scanning, Albin now uses a mobile system that allows them to meet their technicians half way. Inventory can be counted from the back of a trunk at a branch office or in a park, whatever the tech prefers. The data is scanned and uploaded to a laptop. The laptop is then taken back to the main office, or the data is transmitted back via a wireless connection. How convenient is that?

And the technicians are not the only ones who benefit from the convenience. Because of the time savings, Albin now inventories car stock twice a year with time left over for spot checking as needed. Albin inventories 6 technicians per day, but Greg estimates they could inventory 3 times that many if they wanted to. Why not inventory more technicians per day? "We could," says Greg, "but I do not want to inconvenience the customers by pulling too many technicians from the field." With the implementation of Albin's mobile system and OMD Bar Code Scanning, technicians are able to spend less time driving and waiting around to have their car stock inventoried and more time in the field serving their customers.

Further, OMD Bar Code Scanning provides benefits for the warehouse, too. With the scanner, it's easy to scan a rack at a time and then upload the data into OMD without disrupting day-to-day operations.

With all the benefits that OMD Bar Code Scanning offers, Greg concludes, "We have realized a great savings, both in time and money. It is very cost effective, very easy to cost justify. I don't understand why more people aren't using it."



Albin Business Centers technician Muhammad Jabbar performs a service car stock physical inventory.



OMD Bar Code Scanning. Are you using it?

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