



CASE STUDY: Summit Racing Equipment

ProLock Electronics Lockers Enable Auto Parts Supplier to Maximize Security, Control and Productivity

CUSTOMER NAME: Summit Racing Equipment

LOCATION: Tallmadge, OH; Sparks, NV; McDonough, GA; Arlington, TX

INDUSTRY: Aftermarket Automotive Parts

MATERIALS MANAGED: Handheld Scanners

CRIBMASTER SOLUTION: ProLock Electronics Lockers

Challenge

Summit Racing Equipment is the world's leading supplier of aftermarket automotive parts. From four U.S.-based distribution centers, Summit Racing employees ship the largest assortment of high-quality auto parts and accessories to customers across the globe. Throughout its history, the company has sought new ways to increase its inventory catalog and provide unrivalled levels of customer service.

Technology plays a key role in this quest, with handheld scanners making it possible for workers to pick and put away inventory items accurately and efficiently. These handheld assets are necessary productivity tools, but the company realized that manual procedures for access control were slowing workers down and limiting the time-saving benefits.

Each of the four facilities followed similar storage and distribution processes. The devices were locked in cabinets, and only team leaders and supervisors had access. It took a long time to issue the scanners, with workers lining up to wait as a team leader assigned them individually.

This was inefficient. Plus, malfunctioning scanners and off-schedule starts required a supervisor to leave the floor to issue devices to workers.

Paper sign-out sheets are error-prone, and it can be difficult to tie a particular scanner to a specific worker. Mike Ferguson, Senior Manager, Tallmadge Order Fulfillment Center, required a way to reliably account for equipment, facilitate and manage repairs, and ensure that rechargeables were charged and ready to go at the start of each worker's shift. Time searching for scanners is not productive time. Culling malfunctioning tools without a system to schedule and track repairs may mean the correct equipment isn't ready, and ready to go when it is needed.

Plus, Summit Racing's plans included upgrading scanners. It was a good time to upgrade the storage, tracking, and control system and equipment, too.

Summit Racing researched locker options but found none with industrial build quality. An existing supplier had a potential solution, except it involved tight restrictions on craft codes and user configuration, which wouldn't give Summit Racing enough internal control.

Solution

Ferguson's familiarity with CribMaster led him to the ProLock. The industrial-strength, configurable lockers powered by CribMaster Inventory Management Software offered the perfect set of features and functionality to modernize the way Summit Racing issued and tracked every handheld scanner.

Each fulfillment center placed its ProLock lockers on the warehouse floor, out of the way of equipment but fully visible and accessible. Tallmadge has a set of four ProLocks—one master plus three connected auxiliary machines—to hold 96 scanners. The other sites have two or three machines. From his office, Ferguson can update the settings for any locker, regardless of its location, through the software.

The handheld scanners are now associated with specific lockers. Some lockers are assigned to individual workers, whereas others are accessible to anyone with the proper permissions. Now, an employee can walk up to the locker, swipe a badge, pick up a scanner and get to work. The system automatically documents the transaction, eliminating error-prone manual records.

If a scanner requires a repair, the system software can administratively lock the item to prevent a checkout, and a supervisor can submit a ticket to point IT personnel directly to the appropriate locker.

To charge the device batteries, Summit Racing devised an arrangement of USB charger blocks and cables inserted through the punch outs at the back of every locker, ensuring the scanners are powered up and always ready to use.

Results

Using CribMaster electronics lockers, Summit Racing substantially reduced the amount of time it takes for workers to receive their handhelds and get to work, improving productivity and freeing up supervisors to attend to their most important business.

With automated transaction records, it's now easy to track a device to the last known user or run audits to see which scanners are missing, saving time.

The solution also provided the flexibility for Ferguson to control the processes and asset configurations on his own, allowing him to create new craft codes or make modifications whenever necessary, without having to wait on a vendor to help.

Based on the successful rollout of the CribMaster system for scanners, Summit Racing is considering the lockers for other devices.

For 363 days a year, the workers at Summit Racing are focused on fulfilling orders for auto enthusiasts around the world, and the CribMaster electronics locker solution is in place to help them deliver on their customer promise.

"...waiting, walk time, interruption to work—of the '7 forms of waste,' a lot are in this process, and they're now eliminated."

— Mike Ferguson, Senior Manager, Tallmadge Order Fulfillment Center



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