BellHawk QBITS Data Sheet
QBITS an Industrial Warehouse Management System for QuickBooks Enterprise

Introduction

QBITS is a simple-to-use industrial stock room and Warehouse Management System (WMS) that is designed to be used in combination with QuickBooks Enterprise for tracking inventory, tools, jigs, and fixtures, and other materials within manufacturing plants, industrial distribution warehouses, construction, and engineering organizations.

QBITS is available from $250/month for installation on client's own Windows Server Computer or can also be purchased outright, starting at $6,000.

A base QBITS system uses barcode and wireless mobile computing technology to perform the following functions:

- Recording the receipt and put-away of materials.

- Tracking raw, intermediate and finished goods.

- Tracking materials by location or container or bin.

- Tracking withdrawal of materials from containers or locations for production operations.

- Recording production of materials by production operations.

- Recording return of unused materials from production operations.

- Recording the shipment of materials to customers.

- Tracks materials by lot and serial number as well as by expiration date.

- Performs "Cycle Counting" of inventory.

- Records inventory adjustments and reason codes.

- Provides real-time reports and Excel exports for inventory status.

- Tracks who entered, moved or withdrew inventory and when.

- Tracks issuance of tools, jigs, and fixtures to people, jobs, and service vehicles and their return to stock.

Some of the features that make QBITS special include:

1. Seamless integration with QuickBooks Enterprise. Data entered into QuickBooks is automatically transferred into QBITS and vice-versa. Eliminates need for duplicate data entry. Also enables annual upgrade to QuickBooks without impacting production operations.

2. Ability to track materials at multiple geographic locations including multiple stock rooms and warehouses, multiple production shops, in yards, and at building and construction sites.

3. Ability to see the real-time status of inventory anywhere, any time there is an Internet connection using a wide variety of devices including smart phones and tablets.

4. Ability to track containers of material, as well as serial numbered items, wherever they are located. QuickBooks simply tracks the total quantity and value of each part in stock. On a nightly basis, QBITS adds up the quantity of each part in all the containers and automatically reports any changes in inventory quantity and value to QuickBooks so that inventory can be accurately valued.

5. Ability to use a common item number to track materials of different lengths and widths, as well as by user defined parameters such as color, size, and hardness. For make-to-order manufacturers, this can significantly reduce the number of item numbers that need to be setup in QuickBooks.

6. Ability to track customer owned materials separately from company owned materials. Changes in inventory quantity and value are only transferred to QuickBooks financials for company owned materials.

System Architecture

QBITS uses a web-browser interface that is simple for material handlers to use with a wide range of mobile devices including Android tablets with external Bluetooth barcode scanners and ruggedized mobile computers with integral barcode scanners. This includes the use of wearable finger-mounted barcode scanners for hands-free scanning. QBITS can also be used with fork-lift truck mounted barcode tracking systems which use touch screens as well as with fixed station PCs and tablets.

QBITS runs on the same Windows Server that is used to host the QuickBooks Enterprise database. This is so that QBITS can efficiently and reliably exchange data with QuickBooks.

QBITS can be installed on a Windows Server within the warehouse facility or can be installed at a remote data center and accessed over the Internet. Because it uses a web-browser interface, managers and sales people can see the amount of material in stock and the processing status of customer orders, in real-time, from anywhere there is an Internet connection on a wide variety of devices including tablets and smart phones.

With advanced options (see below) QBITS can also automatically print barcode labels on demand on both fixed station and wearable barcode label printers. This includes thermal, offset, and inkjet color printers. QBITS can also be integrated with weighing scales ranging from floor scales, to bench-top scales, and also scales on picking carts. These are used for count-by-weight operations as well as weighing incoming raw materials and outgoing pallets and other shipping containers.

The WMS Option for QBITS

QBITS as standard, is designed for use in stock rooms and smaller industrial warehouses that do not have complicated receiving, picking, or shipping requirements. Adding the WMS option, for an additional $100/month, or $2,400 purchase price, turns QBITS into a full industrial warehouse management system.

The QBITS WMS option adds the following capabilities:

- Purchase Order Receiving. This enables purchase orders to be entered into QBITS and then exported to QuickBooks or, optionally, entered into QuickBooks and exported to QBITS. This module then tracks the receipt and put-away of raw materials against these purchase orders, including automatically sending back receipts QuickBooks. This module also includes the translation between supplier and internal part numbers as well as handling the receipt of customer owned materials.

- Sales Order Shipping. This enables sales orders to be entered into QBITS or imported from QuickBooks. Records the shipment of containers of material to customers against the sales orders and then exports these shipments as invoices to QuickBooks.

- Order and Kit Picking. Generates barcoded pick sheets from sales orders to aid in accurately picking and packing items for customer orders and for kitting and similar ancillary operations. Also assists in picking items in FIFO order as well as in preventing order picking mistakes.

Other Options for QBITS

Shipping Dock Option: Tracks loading of customer orders onto trucks/trailers at a shipping-dock. Warns material handlers if they attempt to load pallets or other shipping containers onto the wrong truck. Gives shipping supervisors visibility of what has been loaded. Sets up data to generate Bills of Lading and Advanced Shipment Notices. Ideal for make-to-order and engineer-to-order organizations that need proof of what was shipped to customer sites and when.

Inventory Auditing Module: Enables blind and semi-blind inventory taking for financial audit purposes without shutting down operations. Tracks material that has moved. Produces discrepancy reports and spreadsheets. Tracks follow-up discrepancy resolution by materials manager.

Automatic Label Generation Module: Automatically generates labels for incoming materials and for finished product packaging. Enables automatic generation of labels for products and labels in client specified formats. Prevents mistakes resulting from using the wrong labels and from mistakes resulting from manual entry of data for the labels. Integrates with BarTender Automation from Seagull Scientific for client specified label layout and to provide drivers for a wide-range of barcode printers.

Weighing Scale Interface: Provides an interface to automatically capture data from networked weighing scales. Includes software to run on a PC to which a weighing scale controller is connected via an RS232 or Bluetooth interface. This software may need customizing to work with a specific weighing machine interface protocol.

Quality Assurance Option: Tracks the quality control status of materials from the time they are received to the time finished products are shipped. Prevents the use of materials that have not passed QC inspection in products or their movement to non-QC inspection areas. Tracks reason-codes for quality failure and handles statistical inspection of lots. Also tracks material that needs to be reviewed into MRB locations.

CFR 21 Part 11 Compliance: Enables compliance with FDA CFR Part 11 regulations. Requires password entry as well as badge-scan for all transactional data entry. Creates time tagged audit trail of all changes to the tracking database, including recording who made the changes and when. Required for pharmaceutical applications.

Other modules and options can also be added to track production operations, including the transformation of raw materials into finished products and work-in-process inventory.

Commentary

QBITS is specifically designed for use in small to mid-sized industrial organizations. It extends the basic inventory tracking capabilities of QuickBooks to provide a wide range of warehouse and stock room management capabilities at an affordable price. QBITS is designed to fill the market gap between limited capability desktop inventory tracking products and high-end warehouse management systems that can cost hundreds of thousands of dollars.

QBITS also has a much wider range of capabilities, at a more affordable cost, than competitive mid-range wireless warehouse management systems, which are primarily designed for use in retail distribution warehouses rather than industrial warehouses.

QBITS is available for installation on a client's own Windows Server, either located in their warehouse or plant, or in their private Cloud, with their own version of QuickBooks Enterprise. Alternately an integrated QBITS and QuickBooks Enterprise solution can be provided on a Managed Services basis at a secure data center over the Internet.

While technically QBITS can work with using Intuit's Cloud-based version of QuickBooks Enterprise, we do not recommend this solution as many of the features needed by our clients are

not available in this version of QuickBooks Enterprise or appear to be still a work-in-progress. Instead we recommend running the "desktop" version of QuickBooks Enterprise and securely accessing this locally over the warehouse or plant LAN or over the Internet using encrypted remote desktop terminal services.

For more information, please send an Email to Sales@BellHawk.com or call (508)-865-8070 and press "1" for sales.