



Dana Improved Inventory Control in an Open Parts Crib

When Dana designed a state of the art power train assembly plant automation and reduction of labor costs was a top priority. Inventory Control was a concern when planning the MRO parts crib, which was designed to be an open crib where maintenance personnel could access parts as needed without the need for full time crib attendants. Dana looked to an outside MRO parts vendor for help in selecting and implementing technology to overcome some of the challenges that faced their MRO inventory control.

According to Bill Large at Dana in Cape Girardeau, MO, the corporate MRO buying team for Dana took the steps needed to acquire the CompuCrib inventory management system. Bill states, "Corporate became aware of CompuCrib through Dana in Dry Ridge and Glasgow who has had great success with the system." By installing CompuCrib Dana was able to enjoy the lower overhead labor costs of an open crib while maintaining the control of a supervised crib. Authorized plant personnel have direct access to the parts they need via password security. After entering the authorized password, employees enter part number, quantity and cost center. Parts are automatically retrieved and delivered through a safe convenient access window. Each transaction is time and date stamped and the software monitors real-time inventories.

The goal of eliminating 24/7 crib supervision was achieved without sacrificing inventory accuracy and control. Non-Production parts are maintained at minimal cost without risking downtime due out of stock situations caused by lack of inventory control. According to Bill Large, one of the first noticed features of the CompuCrib system was the floor space savings. When we asked Bill what was the feature that first gained attention, he quickly replied floor space. When we asked what features provided the most benefit he was also quick to answer inventory control.

An added benefit of the system was realized when suppliers became willing to consign inventory in due to increased control of the parts. Inventory management costs were effectively reduced by more than 70%.

