

## **WMS Can Wait**

### **The Problem:**

Accessory Design Group, a division of Tandy Brand Accessories, Inc. was awaiting the final implementation of their enterprise-wide, multiple facility Warehouse Management System (WMS) computer and software. Their Dallas (TX.) warehouse operations had the immediate need to get shipments out and maintain an accurate record of individual carton with manifesting data prior to shipment. They knew that an automated carton conveyance system was needed for the busy material handling aspect of their operation, regardless of the eventual outcome and delivery timeline of the enterprise WMS. Tandy Brands also knew that current operations required collection of individual carton data prior to shipment (barcode ID's and weights).

Future operations would likely require automated routing of cartons to separate picking areas for order completion. The challenge, as they saw it, was to immediately implement the material handling system "as complete as possible" with most or all of the automatic data collection and routing functionality required for the future. This meant developing a system before the WMS was completely defined, much less implemented. The plan was to meet current control needs and not have to repeat an investment when the WMS was implemented.

### **The Solution:**

The Buschman Co. teamed with Insight Automation to provide complete conveyor equipment and control system solutions. The final conveyor design and equipment fulfilled the immediate material handling solution for carton delivery from picking areas to truck dock door. It also provided some of the equipment and future provisions for automated pick routing functionality.

Insight Automation provided a programmable logic controller (PLC) based conveyor control system that controlled all carton movement on the system. It also provided components and capacity for control of future carton routing equipment. The package included a separate PC based Data Collection Controller (DCC) application system that interfaced with an automated scan / weigh station to collect individual carton barcode ID and weight data just prior to arriving at the dock door. A printer driven by the DCC application provided on-demand printouts of collected carton and weight data for use in Accessory Design Group's manifest verification process. The DCC also provided a data file transmission option for report output.

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