

Case Study

Label printing at VBM Medizintechnik GmbH



- + VBM Medizintechnik GmbH, a globally active company specializing in medical technology, was looking to optimize the printing of its labels.
- + The following requirements were laid down for the project: the making of labels needed to be developed transparently, including the application of status information. The labels had to be guaranteed to be legible, and the design needed to be flexible.
- + These demands were fully met with SEAL Systems' output management solution, integrated in the SAP system.

The company

VBM Medizintechnik GmbH is an internationally active, family-owned company specializing in medical technology, with its headquarters in Sulz am Neckar in Baden Württemberg, Germany. Its product portfolio includes innovative products for airway management, anesthesia and intensive care supplies, and tourniquets for bloodless surgical procedures. The company was founded over 30 years ago and markets its products over its subsidiaries in the USA, France and the Czech Republic, as well as with trade partners worldwide.

Project requirements

1. Transparency in changes to labels

In the course of its SAP ERP implementation, VBM Medizintechnik recognized that the printing of its documents and labels needed optimizing. The creation of labels (such as those for incoming goods) with standard SAP has the disadvantage in that changes to labels cannot be traced back to who made them. There's also no version control or even a status network to serve for the release of forms. The client also wanted to have status information like material number, date of manufacture, and release and check indicators put on the label.

2. Error-free preparation and application of labels

The creation of labels over the standard path in SAP brings with it the risk that bar codes could be prepared incorrectly and then applied, with errors. It is therefore important that content such as number, texts, graphics and bar codes be consistently prepared for both printer and label. Especially with bar codes, it is inevitable that the output is already optimized for the end device from the preparation of the label data.

3. Guaranteed readability of labels

Furthermore, it cannot be guaranteed with all label printers that the printed labels will be readable, as the pixels on bar codes are often not correctly printed in PDF format. This may result in the label containing fine lines, or the bar code itself won't be completely printed.

4. Flexibility in label design

Another request from VBM Medizintechnik GmbH was to be able to create and manage labels in a variety of design forms. Here, additional information from SAP is used.

Implementation with SEAL Systems



VBM Medizintechnik GmbH went with a solution from SEAL Systems in which the design and the preparation of the labels is carried out over a label-creating tool. This solution allows for the preparation and printing of labels for incoming goods following their delivery (palettes),

in production (different labels per packaging level), in receiving after production, in test tags for quality management and for service orders. The label design can be done freely and makes use of any data from SAP. With the SEAL Systems data configuration, process-relevant data are established, without programming work, through simple customizing entries, and forwarded on to the labeling software. In this way, even complex data can be configured clearly, and complex labels can be given extensive content. New labeling requirements in the future will pose no problem.

PDF conversion of labels

After the labels are generated, they are converted from the design's native format to PDF. The verification for the release of the labels is made easier through this universally readable PDF format, and can now also take place without the native label software. This meets the company's important requirements — to guarantee the readability of the labels without the labeling software, and the long-term traceability of the design.

Stamping of status information

After their creation, the labels are checked into the SAP document management system (DVS) in order to determine their status networks and version controls. For VBM Medizintechnik GmbH, it is important that the material number, serial number, date of manufacture, release and check indicators, status and versioning

be included on the label. Thanks to the solution from SEAL Systems, all information from the document information record (DIS) and business processes can now be applied to the label through a stamp function. Here SEAL Systems has integrated functional modules into the firmly defined process (e.g. production and commissioning), which determine the right label, serial number, storage location and date of expiration. The information is processed further in the output management server through an output order from SEAL Systems.

High process reliability

In order to guarantee process reliability in the regulated environment, all printed labels are automatically recorded from the output order in SAP. In the output process, only the necessary number of labels will be printed in order to avoid incorrect labeling. This also guarantees that, should a label be lost (destroyed or applied to the wrong product), one can be reissued with the same parameters as the original.

This new label-printing solution works very flexibly, as the process-relevant information for the label can be selected through customer-specific configurations. The right label is applied automatically from now on, as it can be permanently assigned from the parameters of the document information record (such as version, status, etc.) and from the relevant business process.

Customer testimonial

We're aware of our responsibility to patients and users, and always keep the high quality of our products in focus. That's why we rely on solutions from SEAL Systems, a company that understands the strict directives in the regulated environment and upholds the processes through software components.

Carina Bertram (Project Manager)



Matthias Müller is our specialist for label printing. He's happy to answer your questions!

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