



GAIN FLEXIBILITY, IMPROVE YOUR RESPONSE TIME WITH IFS APPLICATIONS™ FOR PLASTIC PRODUCTS MANUFACTURERS

Whether you are a molder, extruder, former, or mixer, IFS Applications™ helps you meet your customers' demands for customization, high quality, competitive pricing, and fast delivery. With flexibility and responsiveness to customer demands being critical to your success, IFS offers a complete industry-specific solution that has all the capabilities you need, including an integrated quality management application and support for mixed-mode manufacturing, formulas and lot/batch control, durability, and scrap.

Like most plastic products manufacturers, in addition to meeting a growing number of customer requirements, you need rapid return on your IT investment. IFS Applications™ features component-based technology and step-by-step implementation for rapid payback. This means that you can implement only the applications that you require now, enabling you to increase your revenues and profitability sooner. Then it's easy to add new applications or capabilities as you need them. Also, only IFS offers an integrated lifecycle management approach that lets you manage products, customers, and resources throughout their lifecycles.

SUPPORT FOR MIXED-MODE MANUFACTURING

As a component-based solution, IFS Applications™ can be implemented quickly, easily, and economically. You don't have to deploy the entire system at once—just implement what you need today and add components as your business needs expand. IFS is also easy to administer, even if you don't have a large IT staff. For most plastics manufacturing companies, the database requires only a few hours per week of administrative time. And if you prefer, IFS can handle all system administration for you using secure connections through your company's firewall.

SUPPORT FOR OUTSOURCING AND GLOBAL OPERATIONS

To better understand which markets to serve, when to enter them, which products to develop, and which human-capital resources to deploy, IFS offers a unique lifecycle management solution that goes beyond product lifecycle management (PLM) to provide better integration and management of three critical business areas—products, customers, and resources. With IFS, you can more quickly and easily make business decisions across the entire product value chain, considering such factors as profitability and complete lifecycle support. This allows you a greater ability to retain customers, improve product development, and decrease production costs.

Because IFS uses a common database, all the critical lifecycle information is in one place. For example, all work orders are handled the same whether they relate to preventive maintenance, projects, or fault removal. This means you can schedule activities at the same time, increasing the availability of your assets and utilization of your resources. And you can lower maintenance costs by moving from calendar-based to condition-based preventive maintenance.

LIFECYCLE SUPPORT FOR PRODUCTS, CUSTOMERS, AND ASSETS

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FORMULAS AND LOT/BATCH CONTROL

To make it easier to identify yield factors and apportion ingredients at the component level and to get just the right mix for the end item you're producing, IFS Applications™ allows you to use formulas instead of traditional bills of material. You can also use IFS' lot/batch capabilities to manually or automatically generate lot/batch numbers for every item, or just selected ones. The system automatically builds a trace chain, allowing you to trace ingredients and products from the raw materials to the finished product. You can perform where-from and where-used searches to find out instantly where a lot came from and how it was used.

PART IDENTIFICATION AND CONTROL

In the plastic products industry, many ingredients and end products may look alike yet have different chemistry or features. IFS makes it easy for you to identify the features and characteristics of an item that make it unique.

For example, you may start out to make one part with a certain heat rating and, at the end of the batch run, end up with a different part with a higher or lower heat rating. When this happens, IFS lets you easily reclassify the end item based on as many variable or discrete features or characteristics as you require for management purposes. You can intelligently identify items without using "smart" part numbers. You can also perform a best-fit search to quickly and easily identify certain features or characteristics.

DURABILITY TRACKING

With IFS Applications™, you can easily identify the durability, or shelf life, of any item in the system. The clock begins automatically when the purchase order or shop order is received into inventory. You can query for items expiring within a specific time frame and print a report with this information. IFS' integrated event-notification capabilities can send you an e-mail or generate a pop-up message automatically to warn of an impending expiration. You can also recertify material, which starts the durability/shelf-life clock all over again.

PLANNING FOR SCRAP

Scrap happens in the plastic products industry, and it's much more efficient to plan for it than simply to react. IFS Applications™ lets you identify the expected yield in the bills of material and formulas. The system then compensates for the anticipated scrap by increasing the materials requirements. But the system doesn't automatically scrap this over-planned amount. It gives you the ability to scrap the actual amount lost and apply the remaining overage to inventory for the next batch.

LEARN MORE

To find out more about how IFS and IFS Applications™ can help your organization maintain its competitive edge, call (888) 437-4968, or visit www.ifsworld.com.