

CUSTOMER SUCCESS



Zee Medical Service of Reading, PA Gets More Than a Band-Aid

“America’s workplace safety expert.” That’s how Zee Medical Service of Reading, PA describes itself, being the nation’s largest van-based distributor of first aid and safety solutions to industry. Local distributors send out trucks to 300,000 manufacturing plants, construction firms, restaurants, hotels, and offices across the continent, fully equipped with everything from first-aid kits to safety glasses.

Zee Medical Service of Reading, PA, has been family-owned and operated for more than 25 years. Its vans visit up to 640 businesses every day. In addition to supplies, Zee Medical Service helps customers with specialty items like respiratory protection, machine guarding and hearing protection, and provides on-site training on 40 subjects including blood-borne pathogens, confined- space procedures and CPR.

Beyond Resuscitation

Each of Zee Medical’s 32 vans is a mobile warehouse. The better its inventory matches customers’ needs, the better its daily sales and the fewer back orders processed.

Unfortunately, the old UNIX-based system the company had used for years was outdated, poorly integrated and not Y2K compliant. It lacked forecasting data or insights on individual customer buying patterns. It could not sustain company growth and serve Zee Medical’s needs for mobile order fulfillment or e-commerce.

Vital Signs Strong

Zee Medical Service switched to a Microsoft Windows platform and Sage MAS 200 ERP (client/ server)—and found everything it wanted and more. “Sage MAS 200 gives us the information we need for managing multiple warehouses, with the scalability to handle a higher volume of users on the system,” says Pris McClain, controller and financial manager at Zee Medical Service. “We have sped up backorders, eliminated downtime, and developed strategies so we know what customers will want in advance. In other words, we’re working a lot smarter than we used to, and it shows in improved productivity.”

Customer:

Zee Medical Service of Reading, PA

Industry:

First aid and safety supplies for the workplace

Location

Reading, Pennsylvania

Number of Locations: One

Number of Employees: 45

System:

Sage MAS 200

- Accounts Payable
- Accounts Receivable
- Bank Reconciliation
- Business Alerts
- Crystal Reports®
- Custom Office
- FAS Asset Accounting
- General Ledger
- Inventory Management
- Payroll
- Purchase Order
- Sales Order
- Visual Integrator

CHALLENGE

Secure a powerful, fully automated inventory management system that can handle the expanding demands of 32 “mobile warehouses” and a high volume of users.

SOLUTION

Sage MAS 200 with Inventory Management.

RESULTS

Strategic inventory management; timely delivery and backorders; eliminated down time; Improved productivity; enhanced customer service.

Before the advent of Sage MAS 200, Zee's truck inventories were a week behind, since sales orders were delivered in batches for the prior week. Now orders are faxed in every night and entered into the Sage MAS 200 system.

"We now know exactly what was sold the day before," explains McClain. "Soon we'll be able to print out call reports for reps, and then, based on those reports, prepare inventory in advance. Delivery times have been reduced, and there's still room for further improvements in the future." A related benefit, according to McClain, has been a widening of Zee's inventory offerings, since less stock needs to be maintained on the premises at any given time.

McClain says that customer service has improved as well. "When a client asks, we can tell them the exact status of their order. We make detailed notes in the system, recording updates from vendors, and comments from customer phone calls. We even put driving instructions in the notes, so substitute drivers can easily take over a route."

Zee maintains an Access database with various types of customer lists, essential because bill-to addresses are often different than ship-to locations, and many different representatives may serve a single account. Their reseller used Sage Software tools to create a seamless interface with the Sage MAS 200 system, made possible by its flexibility and open database connectivity.

Plans include switching to a Visual Integrator database interface in the near future for even easier accessibility. Zee has also scheduled implementation of Sage Software's Remote Salesperson module as part of its total automation strategy.

"We selected Sage MAS 200 in the first place because they keep offering useful additions to the product line, demonstrating their commitment to the distribution industry," comments McClain. "I am always eager to see their latest upgrades because they're typically things we need."

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McClain can now perform numerous analyses that were never possible before. She can scrutinize territories by sales rep and find top producers. She can create trend reports on products sold, profit margins, or discounts by product line. These insights have led to changes in compensation structures, to generate maximum sales and profits.

"Sage MAS 200 is to accounting packages what Microsoft Office is to business software—brilliant, full-featured, and way ahead of the competition," says McClain. "That must be why I like it so much. It's just like us."

ABOUT SAGE SOFTWARE

Sage Software supports the needs, challenges, and dreams of more than 2.7 million small and mid-sized business customers in North America through easy-to-use, scalable, and customizable software and services. Our products help manage a complete range of business functions including: accounting, operations, customer relationship management, human resources, time tracking, merchant services and the specialized needs of the construction, distribution, healthcare, manufacturing, nonprofit, and real estate industries.

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