

CASE STUDY: Clif Bar



OVERVIEW

Rapidly growing organic food manufacturer implements advanced supply chain automation and enhances sustainability with RFgen Mobile Foundations for Oracle's JD Edwards.



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SNAPSHOT

INDUSTRY:
Food & Beverage

ENVIRONMENT:
Oracle's JD Edwards
EnterpriseOne 9.2

APPLICATIONS:

- Purchase Order Processing
- Inventory Management
- License Plating
- Manufacturing

GOALS ACHIEVED

- 1 Deployed quickly, meeting an aggressive deadline without sacrificing customization or functionality.
- 2 Utilized wireless barcode scanners to improve efficiency and accuracy throughout warehouse and manufacturing operations.
- 3 Enhanced sustainability through paperless transaction processing.
- 4 Enhanced traceability of materials and products throughout the supply chain, in compliance with food safety regulations.
- 5 Reduced cost while maintaining the highest quality standards.
- 6 Increased capacity of production lines and rapid company growth.
- 7 Refined transactions to reflect new learning and best practices in pursuit of continuous improvement for bakery operations and controls.

THE CHALLENGE

Until 2016, Clif Bar used co-manufacturers to make its products, but the company made the strategic decision to bring manufacturing in-house. Clif Bar was in the middle of building a new bakery in Twin Falls, Idaho, when its largest co-manufacturer, Conagra Foods, decided to exit the co-branded bakery business.

"We had to bring up the brand new Twin Falls bakery, and in the same year, convert all ERP,

warehouse, manufacturing, and other business systems within six months to take over Conagra Food's Indianapolis bakery. An amazing and talented team of internal IT professionals, suppliers including RFgen, consultants, and business leaders pulled off successful rollouts in both bakeries despite pretty tough challenges," explained Dave Hartwell, Sr. Director of Business Applications.

To boost efficiency in both bakeries, Hartwell looked for a mobile data collection solution that integrated with Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne and would enable bakery associates to use wireless barcode scanners.

THE SOLUTION

RFgen Mobile Foundations for Oracle's JD Edwards EnterpriseOne is a suite of pre-written, pre-tested Oracle-validated data collection solutions that enable manufacturers to benefit from real-time barcode data collection and roaming mobile applications while requiring zero footprint on the JD Edwards application server.

Hartwell selected RFgen for its flexibility and its integration capabilities. He also liked the experience offered by the RFgen team, which had worked extensively in the food and beverage industry and had proven experience with lot-controlled inventory management.

Paperless Processes

RFgen empowers paperless processes that drive operations for receiving materials, putaway, issuing to work orders, cycle counts, picking, packing, load management, and more to reduce its environmental footprint.

Intuitive Transactions

RFgen features a flexible development environment allowing internal or external developers to rapidly customize and create new workflows. Workflows only need to be created once and then can be quickly and easily configured with a variety of screen sizes.

“ RFgen provided flexibility on the front-end to design the transactions the way our bakeries actually operate while still honoring the critical JD Edwards integration. It gave us the best of both worlds. ”

- Dave Hartwell, Sr. Director
Business Applications, Clif Bar

Third-Party Integrations

In addition to real-time, validated integration between JD Edwards and barcode scanners, RFgen also exchanges information between JD Edwards and WonderWare manufacturing execution software, SafetyChain software for food safety, and SOMAX predictive maintenance software.

Lot-Level Traceability

Like all food and beverage companies, food safety regulations require Clif Bar to be able to trace its ingredients and finished products throughout

the supply chain. All materials are lot controlled and tracked by RFgen.

License Plating

For all of our lot managed items, we use RFgen's License Plating applications. Materials are transacted by the license plate throughout the warehouse process,” said Hartwell, who has also been pleased with RFgen load management functionality. “Without any additional licensing costs, we were able to leverage RFgen load management. That enabled us to customize the load management process to match how we pick, pack, load, and track orders.”

Strategic Partnership

Clif Bar's innovative use of manufacturing technology won the company a 2017 Manufacturing Leadership Award from Frost & Sullivan in the category of Enterprise Technology Leadership. RFgen was one of several key technologies used.



ABOUT CLIF BAR

Clif Bar & Company is a leading maker of organic energy bars, including the CLIF®, LUNA®, and CLIF Kid® product lines. The employee and family-owned company endeavors “to run a different kind of company: the kind of place we’d want to work at, that makes the food we’d like to eat, and that strives for a healthier, more sustainable world—the kind of world we’d like to pass on to our children.”