All About Accuracy: Canton Port Services Streamlines Data Collection to Enhance Efficiency

Barcoding

Background

Canton Port Services, LLC relies on accurate data to keep productivity high when handling large quantities of bulk, project cargo, frozen cargo, unitized breakbulk, steel, and non-ferrous metals. Ensuring the maximum effiency, the Baltimore-based operation implemented a customized barcode scanning system this past spring.

Founded in 1998 as a private marine terminal, Canton now provides a full menu of offerings to breakbulk shippers and receivers, including warehousing and rail loading and unloading.

Challenges

Previously, when a unit came in to Canton, workers manually entered all pertinent information (such as VIN, receive date, make, model and visible damage) into the system, and then spent additional time checking entries, fixing errors and emailing spreadsheets to its partnering cargo line company. Additionally, the load-out process required that workers review numerous customs documents and then manually enter the 17-digit VIN into a spreadsheet to monitor clearances. Entering an incorrect VIN could put the terminal at risk of loading and shipping a vehicle that was not cleared.

Canton called on another Baltimore company, Barcoding, Inc. - a leader in enterprise-wide mobility solutions - to help enhance efficiency.

AT A GLANCE

Background
Barcoding, Inc. streamlined the Canton's Port operations by eliminating time wasted from manually entering in all pertinent information.

Challenges
Workers manually entered all pertinent information into the system, and then spent additional time checking entries, fixing errors and emailing spreadsheets.

Solution
Canton has increased data accuracy and integrity in its receiving, load-out and customs clearing processes. On the receiving end, Canton has reduced the time spent capturing and inputting each unit's information from 10 minutes to 30 seconds.

Results
Workers now simply type in the last six digits of the VIN, which pulls up the corresponding vehicle on a monitor and generates two barcodes. By scanning the appropriate barcode, Canton automatically updates its partner's inventory in real time.

CANTON
Port Services LLC

Solution

"Our goal was to streamline our operations through three major processes - receiving, customs clearing and ship load-out," said Rex Wheeler, President, Canton Port Services, LLC. "From its customized software application, to the integration with our partner's system, to "Our goal was to streamline our operations through three major processes - receiving, customs clearing and ship load-out," said Rex Wheeler, President, Canton Port Services, LLC.

> "From its customized software application, to the integration with our partner's system, to hardware procurement, Barcoding was a great partner in helping us gain new efficiencies and accuracies."
>
> **— REX WHEELER**
> *Canton Port Services, LLC*

"From its customized software application, to the integration with our partner's system, to Canton's partner's booking database. Workers now simply

type in the last six digits of the VIN, which pulls up the corresponding vehicle on a monitor and generates two barcodes - one for the vehicle and the other for its title - for printing. By scanning the appropriate barcode, Canton automatically updates its partner's inventory in real time.

Results

Thanks to the new system, Canton has increased data accuracy and integrity in its receiving, load-out and customs clearing processes. On the receiving end, Canton has reduced the time spent capturing and inputting each unit's information from 10 minutes to 30 seconds. The load-out process has also become quicker, and there's no doubt that each unit has been cleared by customs.

"Eliminating manual data entry in day-to-day operations is a quick yet viable way for companies to realize additional areas of cost savings through greater efficiency, accuracy and connectivity," said Shane Snyder, President, Barcoding, Inc. "While bar-code scanning is just one solution for automating data capture, Canton Port Services demonstrated the technology's effectiveness and has experienced some significant results."

Tim Maranto, a checker and member of ILA Local 953, utilizes a handheld barcode scanner, for automatic, real-time inventory updates.