

Vending Solutions Case Study: Shape Corporation



“We realized a reduction of \$55,000 in disposable tool costs because our dispenser, in its highly detailed daily reports, showed me exactly who took what to do what – and our total tooling costs.”

—Wes Griffes, Group Leader – Process Improvement



Company Overview

Shape Corporation (Grand Haven, Michigan), a global leader in energy management solutions since 1974, is renowned for its advanced roll-forming expertise. Primary customer: the global automotive industry. Major products include vehicle bumpers and pedestrian bars. Secondary products include parts for the office furniture, health care, and agricultural markets.

Challenges

- Improve tool management activity to realize better overall manufacturing efficiencies and get an accurate read on tool consumption – by part and by materials machined
- Eliminate over ordering. In the past, Shape was so concerned about running out of tools, it simply over ordered – creating excess inventory
- Wes Griffes needed to free himself of numerous tool management duties so he could better concentrate on other pressing shop duties
- Teach the machine operators how to produce their work more efficiently

The MSC CAP Vending Solution

- Provides automatic tool reorder and can limit access to costly tools
- Offers a drastic improvement over the previous tool-replenishment methods - it's become a reminder to all Shape employees regarding the company's ultimate goal to run a leaner plant
- MSC's vending team has been exceptional, ensuring Shape's dispenser functions as expected and its tooling drawers are loaded with the best brands to deliver maximum machining productivity
- Installation and implementation were pain-free due to joint pre-planning by Shape and MSC – and MSC's excellent training support

Key Business Results

- Shape realized a reduction of \$55,000 in disposable tool costs after analysis with easy-to-read yet detailed reports showing exactly who took what – by part and materials machined
- No longer concerned about running out of tools due to automatic reorder, thus avoiding over ordering and excess inventory
- Management's time freed up enabling them to identify new opportunities to train their staff, lend machining expertise in other Shape manufacturing areas, and spend more time ensuring machinery on pre-order works as expected when actually installed
- Enhanced workforce-vending dispenser helps teach machine operators how to produce work more efficiently with reports showing how much tooling is actually needed versus what was thought to be needed



Wes Griffes, Group Leader – Process Improvement (left), extracts tooling while Lola Brophy, his local MSC Outside Sales Associate, looks on. Lola teams with Matt Dutkiewicz, MSC's Vending Specialist assigned to Shape, on a regular basis to ensure that the account's dispenser is functioning to expectations.

For more info, call:
800.521.9520

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