



CASE STUDY

Imbibe Inc. Utilizes ASAP Systems' Inventory Management System, Passport, to Automate Their Consumable Samples Inventory in the Production of Flavorful Beverages.

Case Study Overview

COMPANY:

Imbibe Inc.
www.imbibeinc.com

INDUSTRY:

Beverage Manufacturing

BUSINESS CHALLENGE:

Manage the development of bulk drink samples with expiration dates and batch-lot numbers in real-time as they are received and used, or moved from shelf-to-shelf.

SOLUTION:

Passport Stock Inventory
Passport Mobile
Mobile Barcode Scanner
Zebra Printers
Barcode Labels

BENEFITS:

- Saved money by reducing inventory levels
- Mobile barcode-scanning ability for automated inventory data collection
- Saved time by knowing exact location of samples throughout the development process



“THE DRINK TANK”

Over the course of a 50 year history, Imbibe has built an extensive and proprietary database, the HeadStart Library™, cataloguing thousands of developed beverage formulas and flavors. Imbibe’s resources enable flavor chemists and beverage scientists to turn around projects faster than anyone else in the industry and, most importantly, produce better results.

“Our company uses supplier provided samples in the bulk of our flavor development work. We needed a way to comprehensively manage samples in our manufacturing flavor operation,” says Arek Golonka, Business Analyst at Imbibe Inc.

With the testing of various samples,

the company needed an automated inventory management system that enabled lab chemists to manage and track the development of drink samples in real time as they are received, used or moved from shelf-to-shelf around the lab through the development process. To create tasteful beverages, Golonka and his team needed to track the location of samples, incoming and outgoing inventory and the concentration of expiration dates.

THE CHALLENGE

Prior to implementing Passport, employees used an MS Access database which provided only a basic inventory log. This did not provide them with full visibility of current inventory on hand, inventory used up,

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and the extension of using expiration dates and tracking by location.

The process of augmenting drink samples involves multiple stages stretching from receiving supplier samples, organizing inventory on-hand at different locations, and tracking who is using up various samples to produce ideal flavors.

Because supplier-provided samples are used in the bulk of the flavor development work, flavor samples are constantly going in and out of the freezing stock room while simultaneously tracking expiration dates on the perishable items on a daily basis. Ultimately, it was a challenge understanding who used what samples, how much was used up, what was issued out, and what was simply moved back into the general inventory to be used another day.

In order to achieve this process smoothly and effectively, the unique need was for a basic sample tracking inventory system that would automate and fulfill inventory requirements, save time and money, and improve performance in the flavor development process.

FINDING A SYSTEM TO FIT THEIR NEEDS

After researching various ways to automate the company's sample inventory, ASAP Systems popped up frequently with top ranking results. ASAP Systems' engineers worked with Golonka to determine what the company's unique needs were; after fully investigating their needs, ASAP Systems' engineers recommended Passport, a credible client-server inventory tracking solution, an easy-to-use system that includes barcoding, lot traceability and inventory management.

"My process of selecting a system started with a demo and was followed by asking a few basic questions regarding the rules each system used to maintain inventory. ASAP Systems provided the most comprehensive functionality for a reasonable price," says Golonka.

After a virtually problem-free installation of the system, training sessions commenced; everyone within the staff came to an agreement that the Passport solution is an efficient way to store their



product. Also, the system was so highly user-friendly that the learning curve was less than a month.

ASAP Systems recommended a solution that included:

- Passport Inventory tracking system
- Barcode scanner
- Enhanced Support Package
- Barcoding Printer

THE SOLUTION

Passport provided the ability to successfully barcode everything from location and stock items received to flavors

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ASAP Systems | Inventory Management and Asset Tracking

created with the inclusion of batch-lot date codes. This decreased the time needed for data collection by quickly scanning each sample, performing receiving and issuing transactions, and managing the expiration dates of each sample.

“Passport has the right mix of features, mainly bin locations, shelf-life tracking and the ability to ‘Check Out’ items,” says Golonka.

Developers found fresh samples easily because Passport made it possible for samples to be assigned to specific shelves.

Saving Money with Reduced Inventory Levels

The Passport inventory solution using barcode technology increased lot traceability, improved inventory processing performance, and saved money by significantly reducing inventory levels. With the implementation of Passport, a complete inventory lifecycle management system, Imbibe was able to effectively monitor inventory levels simply by tracking supplier samples being received, supplies currently on hand, and the amount of samples used in the

development stages of flavors. Scheduled reports also helped lab technicians understand how much inventory samples were being used periodically.

“Passport has allowed us to reduce inventory levels by up to 65 percent. We no longer need multiple containers of the same item. It is all stored in one system. This saves us so much space,” says Golonka.

Batch-lot Inventory Tracking

The expiration of all inventory samples received by suppliers were defined by a stock number and then a batch-lot number, which identifies the particular batch-lot that the item belongs to. Thus, different batch-lots of the same stock number are able to exist in the inventory. In addition, this improves business inventory control by completely automating batch-lot inventory management.

Overall, Imbibe saved time by implementing Passport which helped quickly collect data, improve cost savings by reducing inventory levels and unexpected inventory shortages.

For more information on ASAP Systems’ inventory and asset tracking solutions, visit www.asapsystems.com or contact at sales@asapsystems.com