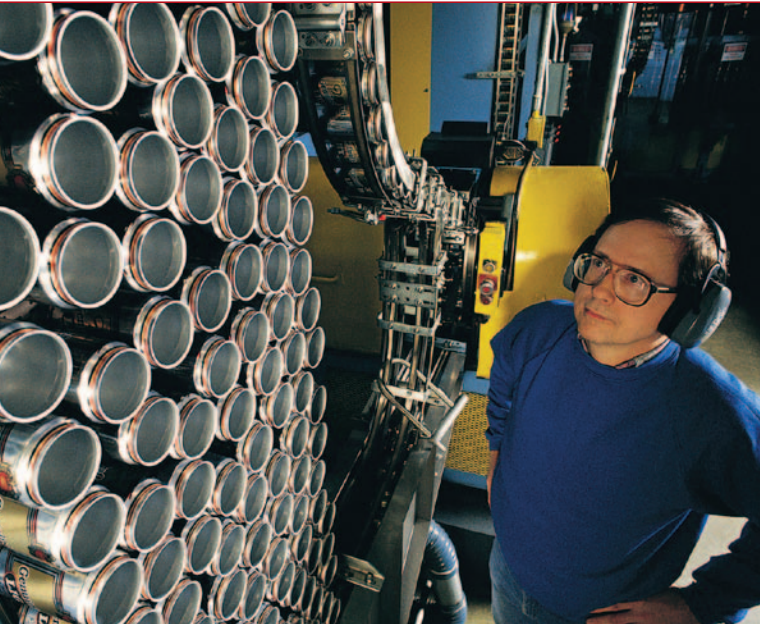


Inventory Management Suite



➔ The Fourth Shift Inventory Management Suite brings together the inventory control, lot trace/serialization, and shipping modules to help manufacturers manage inventory more efficiently and cost-effectively.

Overview.

The Inventory Management Suite delivers real time inventory information that allows you to maintain and provide details about inventory status, inventory levels, inventory locations, inventory costs, lot trace, serialization, and shipment of all inventories. The lot trace/serialization module gives you control over raw materials and finished goods while the shipping module automates shipping and packaging processes to increase efficiency and productivity.

Benefits.

The Fourth Shift Inventory Management Suite helps manufacturers improve:

- **Accuracy:** Capture and maintain accurate, timely item information, and current inventory balances
- **Control:** Gain control over your raw materials and finished goods to improve quality, prevent waste, and provide better customer service
- **Savings:** Save time and money by eliminating redundant tasks and automating shipment processing

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Features and functions.

Inventory control.

The inventory control module provides up-to-the-minute information on all the items needed to produce your product and keep your manufacturing operations running smoothly. The inventory control module captures planning and costing information, inventory valuation, and stock status information for materials used by your company. The financial impact of stockroom or warehouse activity is transmitted to the general ledger. Using inventory control functionality, you can:

- Define all items used to manufacture your products from raw material to end products, even tools, reference items, and resources. You define each item's planning parameters, including lead times, planner/buyer responsibility, and order policy data, to use in other Fourth Shift applications for requirements planning.
- Define detailed cost data at the item level and rolled costs for materials, labor, and overhead. Costs can be defined for up to ten cost types, so you can analyze the impact on product costs and inventory investment of using various costing methods.
- Create real-time financial transactions—as you use inventory control to record your material movements and cost changes, corresponding financial transactions are created for transfer to the general ledger. In this way, your general ledger reflects actual manufacturing activities and a complete audit trail is maintained back to the source transactions.
- Provide real-time inventory information serving as the basic building block for all other manufacturing modules, since it maintains your item information and inventory balances. Based on this information, Fourth Shift plans and controls all items—materials, resources, tools, and reference items—used to manufacture your products. You maintain up-to-the-minute inventory balances by stocking location and can easily access inventory value and stock status information.
- Define whether an item is active, being phased-out or obsolete. By setting up default values, you can minimize entry time when adding items with similar item information.
- Specify planning data, such as lead times, planner/buyer responsibility, and the planning parameters related to the order policy.
- Define costs added at the item level and rolled costs for several cost components: material, labor, fixed overhead, and variable overhead.
- Define costs for one of two cost types (standard or average actual cost) and display inventory value based on the specified cost type. This feature helps you analyze the impact on your product costs and inventory investment of using various costing methods.
- Automatically maintain an online, human readable audit trail of all item-related transactions, allowing you to easily identify and correct inventory problems.
- Set up and maintain stocking locations. You can define multiple stockrooms and bins, and specify the type of inventory—on-hand, in-inspection, on-hold or shipping—that can be stored in a particular location.
- Display real-time inventory balances and values, thereby eliminating the need for voluminous stock status printouts. You have immediate answers to your questions about where inventory is located and how much is available, how much inventory is currently allocated, and what is in shipping and in work-in-process.



LOT trace/serialization.

The lot trace/serialization module allows you to track lot-traced items throughout the manufacturing process, from receiving through shipping. Serial numbers can be assigned to items at the time of shipment. Lot trace/serialization functionality enables you to:

- Boost quality control by requiring lot-traced items to be received into inspection or hold locations
- Eliminate accidental use of expired lots or lots in need of retesting by automatically moving them to hold locations for inspection
- Utilize “first in first out” (FIFO) inventory control to manage stock rotation and prevent spoilage; ensure proper inventory consumption by carefully monitoring items’ shelf life, retest and expiration dates—when FIFO control is activated, the lot with the earliest first receipt date is displayed for picking and shipping
- Perform downward lot traces from the finished good item to determine where components originated and upward lot traces to determine where a component was consumed. Receipt, issue, inventory move, lot split, and inventory adjustment transactions generate real-time lot trace information
- View a single, multiple, last or user-defined bill of lots and peg directly to orders, lots or serial numbers
- Identify each item’s maximum shelf life in days as well as the number of days from receipt when the lot requires retesting; expiration and retest dates are displayed and you can print a report—by item of all lots that expire or require retesting within a specified date range—which can be used to automatically move lots that have expired or need retesting into inspection or hold locations
- Maintain lot information such as potencies, lot-related dates, lot quantities, text messages, and user-defined fields; lot information can be added on the lot master or through inventory control, manufacturing order management, and purchasing (extended text—up to 1800 characters—is available to record lot-related notes about results of lot testing, testing procedures or other lot-related information)
- Use masks, or templates, to create lot numbers and serial numbers that contain embedded data relevant to your business—for example, dates, item numbers or order numbers can be automatically included as part of the optional system-generated lot number or you can also choose to manually assign lot numbers



The Fourth Shift Inventory Management Suite helps manufacturers maintain accurate item information, gain control over inventory, save time and money, improve quality, and provide better customer service.

Shipping.

The shipping module assists in the preparation, recording, and tracking of customer order shipments. The system provides an action window that presents orders due to ship and allows you to select specific orders. You can track the shipments of a customer’s order by viewing order/shipment activity and printing a shipment log. Shipping module functionality enables you to:

- Use stockroom action windows that identify the orders that have been released for shipment by required ship date or customer identification
- Review and select orders based on selection criteria using the mass maintenance feature—a consolidated picklist can be prepared to combine all requirements from all orders on one list, which is organized by location, effectively creating a “single-pass” map through the stockroom—eliminating redundant trips to the same locations
- Produce pre-shipment or post-shipment packing lists, box labels, bills of lading, and air bills

- Designate items as hard allocated or “staged” for specific lines of specific orders until they are ready to actually be shipped
- Access a shipment log report that summarizes shipments for a range of customers over a defined time period; the report is designed to be used by several departments within the organization including manufacturing, order entry/sales, and accounting
- Maintain motor freight carrier information that is used to define the items being shipped when using common carriers; you can include an item value range based on company requirements for each national motor freight code item to print on bills of lading

To learn more about how the Fourth Shift Inventory Management Suite can enhance your manufacturing business, contact your Fourth Shift representative or visit www.fourthshift.com.

SoftBrands
800 La Salle Avenue
Suite 2100
Minneapolis, MN 55402
USA
612 851 1500
612 851 1560

Contact your local
Infor office regarding
availability of products
in your region.

Infor Corporate Headquarters
13560 Morris Road
Suite 4100
Alpharetta, Georgia 30004
USA
866 244 5479
800 260 2640
www.infor.com

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