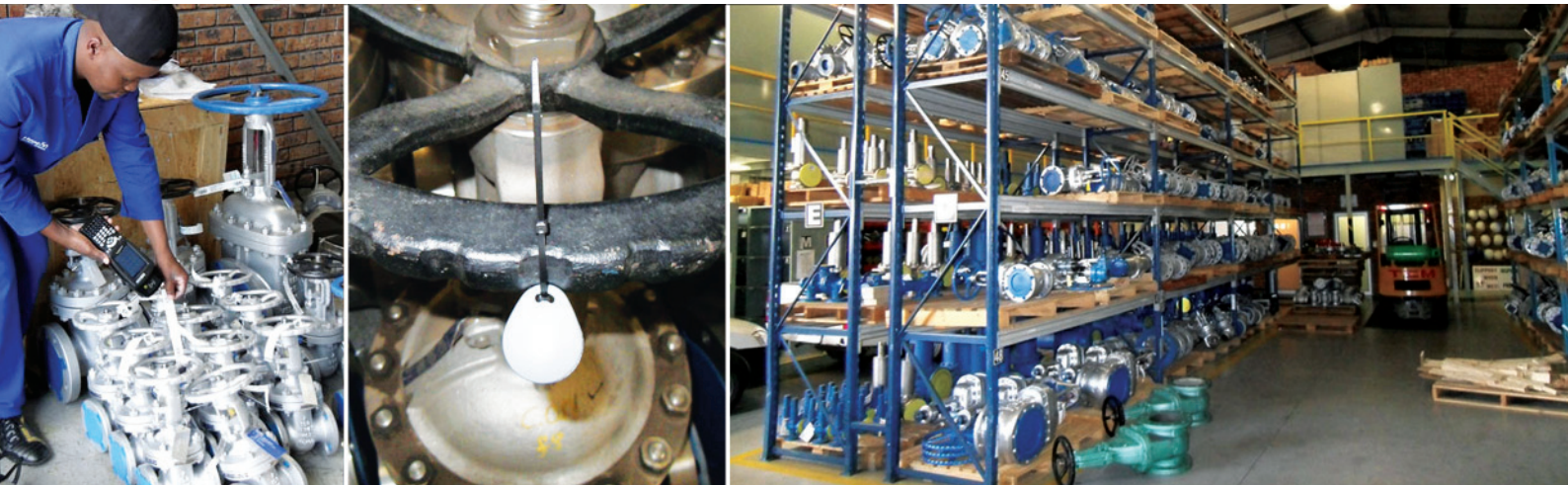


CASE STUDY



Heaton
VALVES AFRICA

Heaton Valves ensures quality, improved inspection processes and individual valve traceability with Assettagz.

Quality and service excellence are paramount to Heaton Valves. In order to achieve the highest standards possible, Heaton needed a solution which ensures valve inspections take place and that each individual valve can be traced from the time it arrives to the time it is dispatched to the customer.

To achieve this, Heaton Valves now uses **Assettagz** RFID software and handheld computers to load, inspect, manage and dispatch valves from their warehouses.

Background

Heaton Valves Africa (Pty) Limited is an expert valve stockist and distributor of premium valve brands, and a distinguished valve solution provider to all facets of industry.

It is committed to becoming the foremost stockist and distributor of valves and related components to the oil, petrochemical, process and related industries, as well as meeting and exceeding its customers' expectations in terms of product and service.

The issue

In order to maintain the highest level of quality within the valve distribution, Heaton Valves needed to ensure that all valves that arrived at Heaton Valves and delivered to the customer were correct to the customer's order as well as in perfect condition. In addition, Heaton Valves could not manage their supplier's performance as well as the amount of stock holding and condition of the stock within their warehouse.

“Using Assettagz had made us realise that technology can only better our work environment. We are now able to prevent a Non Conformance Report (NCR) been given to us from our customers, we are able to know exactly where a valve is located in the warehouse, what condition it is in and trace all the inspection and test certificates relating to each specific valve.”

Peet Koekemoer, Warehouse and QA Manager

The Solution

Valves need to be inspected for conformance to test certificates and performance standards. Each valve that arrives at Heaton Valves is tagged on arrival and undergoes a comprehensive inspection process. After inspection, the valves are allocated a shelf location within the warehouse and placed on the shelf.

When a Sales order is received, the valves are moved to the dispatch area within the warehouse and undergo a final inspection. This ensures the customer receives what they requested and that the valve is according to the correct specifications.

Implementation

To begin, Heaton Valves had to ensure all their product codes were consistent in the business and that each individual valve had its own unique barcode. Once this was completed and all valves had their own barcode label, **Assettagz** was fairly easy to implement. By importing the warehouse locations from the various Heaton Valve branches as well as the categorization from the current Heaton Valves accounting system directly into the **Assettagz** database, the system was ready to go.

Employees at Heaton Valves were trained to use the **Assettagz** application and the mobile devices and **Assettagz** was very well received for its simplicity and ease of use. Even employees that do not work on any computer at the moment have been trained to use the system.

How it works

1. Each valve is uniquely identified using a **barcode** or **RFID tag**.
2. Tagged valves can be instantly scanned and identified using **handheld computers**.
3. Alerts ensure all valves **undergo an inspection** on arrival and dispatch.
4. Each valve is allocated a specific location in the warehouse for **quick access** when an order is placed.
5. Inspection results are captured on the handheld computer. **Inspection Certificates and reports are immediately available** to view centrally on the web-based application via any internet enabled computer.
6. Failed inspections can be reviewed to **manage supplier performance** and warehouse management.



Arrival scan of RFID tags and barcodes using the handheld computer.

“Most importantly, we can now have peace of mind knowing that we can supply our customers with the correct valves as per there order and specifications. Using the device and the **Assettagz application, there should never be an incorrect valve supplied to our customers.”**

Peet Koekemoer, Warehouse and QA Manager

Phase II

The next phase at Heaton Valves will see the smaller stock items and consumables been managed using the **Assettagz** application. These items typically do not undergo individual inspections but **Assettagz** will enable Heaton Valves to add quantities and reduce quantities as spare parts come in and out of the warehouse. By doing this Heaton Valves will know what they have available to their customer at any point in time. In conjunction with their accounting package, they will have a near real time value of the stock in the warehouse as well as making audit counts a lot simpler and quicker, reducing costs and improving accuracy in the business.



Inspection results are captured electronically on the handheld computer using a customised form.

“Now that we have **Assettagz, we are able to ensure quality control inspections are carried out, ensure the highest level of quality to our customers, improve the efficiency of our warehouse and manage our supplier performance.”**

Siphon Zini, QA Director



Phase II will see smaller stock items and consumables managed using **Assettagz**.

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