

Medical Tools

Alpine Finds Accurate Item Dimensions for Medical Tooling Equipment Company

1 Introduction

Alpine partnered with a prominent single-source wholesale leader in medical tooling equipment, known for providing access to thousands of products across numerous brands. With a dedication to delivering unmatched wholesale service, the company strives to enhance efficiency, speed, and value throughout the supply chain. However, they encountered a critical challenge: accurately capturing the dimensions of thousands of products—a key factor in optimizing operations within their Warehouse Management Systems (WMS).



2 Challenge

As a wholesaler managing a vast inventory, the company understood that accurate item dimensions were essential for efficient warehouse management. Precise measurements enable optimal space allocation, streamlined storage, and accurate shipping calculations. However, obtaining precise dimensions for thousands of items posed a significant challenge. The sheer volume of products, combined with varied packaging formats, made manual measurements not only time-consuming but also susceptible to errors.

To tackle this issue, the company enlisted Alpine Supply Chain Solutions, a consulting firm renowned for its supply chain optimization expertise. Alpine was entrusted with rapidly measuring the dimensions of the most frequently handled items in the warehouse, ensuring that this data would seamlessly integrate into the Warehouse Management System (WMS) for improved efficiency across operations.

3 Solution

Alpine Supply Chain Solutions tackled the challenge with a data-driven approach. The team began by conducting an in-depth analysis of the company's inventory data to uncover trends and prioritize items requiring immediate attention. By classifying SKUs into "A" and "B" categories based on movement and inventory significance, Alpine concentrated on capturing dimensions for the most critical items first. A key innovation in Alpine's solution was the development of a "Proxy Dimension" strategy. Rather than measuring every individual item, Alpine grouped products with similar characteristics and dimensions. This approach significantly reduced the time and expense of the measurement process while maintaining a high level of accuracy, providing a smart, efficient solution to streamline operations.



4 Implementation

The project was scheduled for six weeks, targeting the capture of dimensions for 4,274 SKUs, including their corresponding vendor UPCs for precise cross-referencing within the WMS. Measurements were required at multiple packing levels: individual units, inner packs, and full cases.

Alpine's success relied on meticulous planning and seamless teamwork. The process was streamlined so that items with appropriate labels were delivered to the team at regular intervals. Alpine's team would then efficiently scan each item's dimensions and vendor UPCs before placing them in a designated putaway area. The ORS team would promptly retrieve these items to reintegrate them into inventory.

This well-coordinated workflow allowed dimensions to be captured every 45 seconds, with Alpine's systematic approach eliminating any bottlenecks. Alpine's organized approach ensured that there were no bottlenecks in the process. As a result, the team not only met but exceeded expectations, delivering exceptional speed and accuracy.

5 Results

The results of the six-week engagement were outstanding. Alpine Supply Chain Solutions captured dimensions for 10,578 SKUs—surpassing the initial target of 4,274 by an impressive 124%. This remarkable success was a testament to the seamless collaboration between Alpine and the company, as well as to the meticulous planning and execution throughout the project.

The accurate, comprehensive dimensional data gathered provided the company with invaluable insights for its WMS. With these dimensions, the company could optimize warehouse layout, maximize space utilization, and boost overall operational efficiency, paving the way for enhanced performance across their supply chain.

5 Conclusion

The collaboration between the medical tooling equipment company and Alpine Supply Chain Solutions demonstrates the transformative impact of a well-executed supply chain initiative. Through data-driven analysis and innovative strategies, Alpine not only met but significantly exceeded the project's initial goals, equipping the company with critical tools to enhance their WMS and streamline operations. This project underscores the power of collaboration, precise planning, and strategic execution in solving complex supply chain challenges. Alpine's success in exceeding expectations reflects both their deep expertise and unwavering commitment to helping clients achieve operational excellence.

