



# CASE STUDY: Meggitt Fuel Cell Manufacturing

## Fuel Tank Manufacturer Uses Weight-Sensing Inventory Management Solution to Save Time and Costs

**CUSTOMER NAME:** Meggitt PLC

**LOCATION:** Rockmart, GA

**INDUSTRY:** Aerospace and Military

**MATERIALS MANAGED:** PPE consumables

**CRIBMASTER SOLUTION:** WeighStation

### Challenge

Meggitt Polymers & Composites (MP&C), a manufacturer of self-sealing bladder fuel cells for military helicopters, aircraft, and ground vehicles, faced difficulties trying to maintain the appropriate stock and usage records for their inventory of protective gloves. Procurement Analyst Jennifer Limon estimates that the various styles and sizes of gloves account for almost 75% of the facility's entire PPE inventory.

During the manufacturing process, MP&C employees work with different chemicals, coatings, sealants, and adhesives, each requiring a particular type of glove for safe handling. Throughout the day, workers may change gloves every two hours, so always having the proper style available for a job – in the right size – is necessary to ensure both safety and high productivity.

Initially, whenever an employee needed a new pair of gloves, a supervisor had to dispense them from a locked storage cabinet on the plant floor. It was up to employees to notify the supervisor when certain inventory items were low, and the supervisor would then walk to the storeroom to restock the requested items in the cabinet. This inefficient, manual process resulted in lost productivity for both workers and supervisors, in addition to inventory problems and added costs resulting from:

- Employee hoarding
- Overstock of high-use items
- Interrupted workflow
- Inaccurate historical usage data

MP&C needed an inventory management solution that would provide time and cost savings, help increase productivity, and offer detailed usage data of every glove.

By creating a consignment program with vendors, the company was able to reduce its inventory carrying costs for consumables, but it still lacked suitable dispensing and replenishment procedures.

**Having the detailed usage data of every glove – right down to size, description, part number, and supervisor – was a critical requirement.**

### Solution

To find an inventory management solution that met all of their unique needs, MP&C turned to CribMaster for recommendations. CribMaster first conducted a comprehensive inventory management assessment and then offered a customizable solution that incorporated precise weight-sensing technology.

The system consists of CribMaster WeighStation automated dispensing machines paired with robust software to effectively streamline MP&C's purchasing, replenishment, and dispensing processes.

The solution is designed to be user friendly, but MP&C also conducted individualized hands-on training prior to installation to encourage employee buy-in. The reaction to the new workflow has been overwhelmingly positive, and employees enjoy having open access to readily available items.

When workers need a new pair of gloves, they no longer have to occupy a supervisor's time. The employees simply swipe their badge to authenticate, pull the required items from the bins, and return to work. The high-sensitivity bin-and-scale technology automatically senses the weight removed, the system's touchscreen displays the type and quantity of items dispensed, and the connected database records all transaction details in real time.

### Results

Supervisors can now focus on business-level inventory management rather than individual dispensing, and workers always have the proper items available for the job. Since implementing the CribMaster WeighStation solution, MP&C has:

- Enhanced productivity
- Reduced spend
- Decreased material consumption
- Improved cash flow
- Streamlined invoicing
- Supported safety compliance
- Gained control of item issuance and usage data

Taking advantage of a smart, comprehensive, and customizable vending solution, MP&C now has the information to maintain optimal inventory levels and operate at peak performance.

**“Each of MP&C's 45 supervisors has saved approximately 3–5 hours a week in the inventory ordering, tracking, and restocking process.” – Bobby Zertuche, Commodity Manager**



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