



# DMLogic Fights Counterfeit Drugs

shipment  
INV: 20096415  
PO:



## DMLogic partners with pharmaceutical giant to pilot an ePedigree program.

An alarming number of counterfeit drugs, both prescription and over-the-counter, enter the United States every day. Some recent estimates suggest as much as 10% of the global drug supply is counterfeit, resulting in the potential for serious side effects, disability or worse, not to mention the financial impact on drug suppliers. How can the pharmaceutical industry keep the supply chain safe on the long voyage from ingredient to consumer?

### WEAPONS THAT WORK

To combat this life-threatening problem, several states have now mandated an electronic pedigree system to vigilantly monitor drugs throughout the supply chain. By 2015, all prescription drugs moving through the state of California must have a serialized pedigree that can be traced to the lowest unit of sale. Florida

has enacted a similar mandate. This ePedigree approach means, for example, that every bottle of insulin must be tracked from manufacture to injection. This requirement will soon become the industry standard across the country and likely, the world.

### A PILOT APPROACH MADE BETTER

A leading global pharmaceutical maker recently called on consultants at DMLogic to participate in their ePedigree program. The initial approach was to use RFID tags to support product tracking because they do not require line-of-sight to capture each product unit. DMLogic consultants along with SDS Automation and IBM were tasked to create a system that scanned products quickly and stored all information required by EPC Global standards. This system was soon expanded to

capture the precise shipping container weight to verify container quantity.

*The customer threw in an additional challenge: seamlessly integrate this capture of serialization information into the normal course of operation using the existing warehouse management system.*

Unfortunately, the RFID pilot approach did not meet expectations. Accuracy rates during the initial phase of the production system were only at 50 – 70% per case scanned, and even lower for pallets. So we returned to the drawing board, working with the customer to change the scope and technology, replacing the RFID approach with a 2D Data Barcode. The customer threw in an additional challenge: seamlessly integrate this capture



of serialization information into the normal course of operation using the existing warehouse management system.

#### **RISING TO THE CHALLENGE**

The uncompromising standards of the DMLogic consultants and our proven ability to deliver quality solutions guaranteed success. The solution was designed as a parent/child relationship between pallets and retail units. The system ties all pallets tracked by license plates to the parent serial number during the receiving process. The parent serial number is then pulled from the manufacturing system to receive all child relationships associated with the pallet. If the pulled parent serial number does not match, the operation is alerted.

As the inventory moves within the warehouse, the serial numbers follow. This reduces bottlenecks in picking since the operation needs only to scan the highest level pick unit when necessary, rather than being prompted to scan

the children. At packing and shipping points, serial barcodes are checked only when serial numbers don't match. Otherwise, the operator ships safely and seamlessly without further intervention regarding serial numbers.

The solution also incorporated TraceLink (formally SupplyScape), a leader in electronic pedigrees to build and store the ePedigree data. When the operation leaves the trailer, the system sends the data to the TraceLink network. TraceLink creates the Pedigree that includes manufacturer and site identification, customer purchase order, and product destination. The customer acknowledges receipt of each serial number by simply logging into the TraceLink web site.

#### **SAFETYPLUS**

The solution does more than ensure a safe supply chain for pharmaceutical drugs. The ePedigree record facilitates the wholesaler operation with product availability, shipment

notification; recall notification, shelf life and product returns. If a shipment is stolen, the wholesaler can quickly identify the product, the quantity and where it was headed.

This ePedigree project was such a success that the company presented our consultants with a special award acknowledging our commitment and dedication.

See our Lot Recall and Clinical Trials case studies to learn more about the solutions we have delivered to our pharmaceutical customers.

## **AboutDMLogic**

DMLogic is a team of senior supply chain consultants with decades of experience solving challenges for our customers.

Our capabilities include warehouse management systems, material handling systems and process and facility design for distribution

Our experience includes pharmaceutical, automotive, electronics, retail, publishing and third party logistics.

Our team has provided solutions for Fortune 100 companies in the US and abroad, as well as for smaller companies in the US.

Our customers will attest: DMLogic builds partnerships for the long term, with a solid reputation for customer service and quality work.

DMLogic: a strong partner for companies looking to solve the complex challenges of managing their inventory.

### **DMLogic, LLC**

661 Andersen Drive  
Foster Plaza  
Pittsburgh, PA 15220

tel 412.458.4010  
fax 412.458.4011

[sales@dmlogicllc.com](mailto:sales@dmlogicllc.com)

[www.dmlogicllc.com](http://www.dmlogicllc.com)