



Paperless Manufacturing Solutions for ECOs in Wire Harness Manufacturing

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The Reality of the Wire Harness Industry

Wire and cable harness companies must deliver under very short lead times to meet customer demands. This puts pressure on manufacturers to build quickly and error-free. Customers also require Engineering Change Orders (ECOs) on harnesses – a costly and time-consuming process. To stay competitive in pricing, the manufacturer often bears the cost of the ECO.

Without the right tools, these customer requirements increase scrap and rework, delay shipments and cause material shortages.

To keep costs low and retain customers, wire harness manufacturers can only pass on production charges when absolutely necessary. A system that estimates the original production costs, manages changes to the order and calculates the resulting costs is critical; otherwise, the risk of errors and cost overruns dramatically increases.

As wire harness customers continue to demand smaller orders, shorter lead times and the ability to make product changes as required, these challenges continue to grow in complexity for manufacturers.

Visibility of Work and Cost

Wire harness manufacturers need a solution that provides complete visibility of production and cost factors, so a real-time assessment of the impact of an ECO can be made the moment it is received. Mistakes occur when supervisors are forced to make a best-guess estimate on how to manage the change.

Accelerating and error-proofing communication between the sales group, engineering and operators is critical. When engineers and supervisors are forced to walk the shop floor to manage a change order, delays, errors and wasted time drive up production costs.

Companies using paper to manage production cannot support the demands of modern wire harness manufacturing, especially regarding ECOs. Paperless Manufacturing provides the only solution that directly addresses the core needs these companies have in successfully managing ECOs, increasing profit margins and meeting the requirements of their customers.



Solving ECOs for Wire Harness Manufacturers

Paperless Manufacturing eliminates errors in manufacturing by automating ECOs, controlling costs and making production process predictable.

Wire harness companies using Paperless Manufacturing to solve ECOs start by controlling their existing work, increasing accuracy, productivity, and their ability to predict costs. As they digitize production planning, companies maximize their use of existing planning, further controlling costs.

Operators access just the area of the production plans they need to complete their work. Paperless Manufacturing gives every member of the team immediate access to the work required; as changes are made, they are immediately available to the shop floor, eliminating the possibility of building to erroneous or old production information.

By eliminating errors in production, all orders are made to specification and scrap becomes an issue of the past. When scrap is eliminated, many companies find it is easier to maintain inventory control. Inventory is used only where needed.

The Results of Paperless Manufacturing

Paperless Manufacturing enables manufacturers to manage the entire ECO process from a single location. When a customer calls with an order change, the sales or customer service team can evaluate the customer's change request based on the current cost, schedule and production numbers.

Engineers use current production information to make the required changes or hold production until new requirements are available. The production floor continues work on other orders as they wait on the new requirements, optimizing efficiency. Since Paperless Manufacturing facilitates communication for the team, there aren't the delays, confusion or errors typical of paper-based production and communication.

Paperless Manufacturing enables companies to process customer change order requests quickly and without mistakes. With digital communication between operators and engineers, manufacturers significantly reduce scrap, rework and expedited shipping costs.

Companies using Paperless Manufacturing react to change with accuracy and efficiency, error-proofing their processes to improve profitability.

WANT TO LEARN MORE? CHECK OUT OUR BLOG RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 6 Ways Paperless Manufacturing Can Help Your Shop Floor
- 5 Easy Shop Floor Quality Improvements You Can Make with Paperless Manufacturing
- Getting to Zero in Manufacturing
- Simple Tips for Adding Shop Floor Visual Work Instruction

WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT PAPERLESS MANUFACTURING?

Contact CIMx Software today at info@cimx.com for more information on Paperless Manufacturing for Wire Harness Manufacturers, or visit us on the web at www.cimx.com/wire-cable-harness-assembly.



Questions? I'm here to help.

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