



**Customer Case Study**

**Baxter Corporation | Production Line Labeling**

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

**Baxter Corporation (Canada) manufacturers and markets products that save and sustain the lives of people and is one of the most respected companies in healthcare today.**

**Baxter's Alliston facility have been in Alliston, Ontario for more than 50 years!**



**Concentrate Label Application**

For the first project, Ahearn & Soper provided the Label Application software ~ two label applicators for printing and applying product and carton labels, and two scanners for verifying the applied labels. The application is capable of printing 15 different types of WHMIS labels. It also ensures that the correct label is used, and informs the Baxter Applicator Control System (ACS) whether to reject the product or stop the conveyer production line.

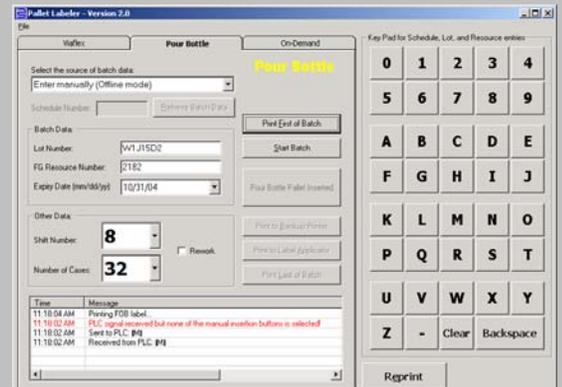
**Pallet Label Application**

For the second project we provided the Pallet Label Application software, a touch-screen PC, a label applicator and a backup printer. The operator starts a new batch of products by entering the schedule number on a touch screen monitor. The system then retrieves all necessary information from AS400. As a pallet of finished products is ejected from the pallet builder, the Programmable Logic Controller (PLC) informs our system of the product type and its quantity. Our system then sends the correct information to the label applicator. As the pallet moves out of the pallet wrapper, the label applicator automatically applies front and side labels to that pallet.

The delivered solution was detailed, understandable and very well organized.

**What our System Does?**

Our system updates the AS400 System in *real-time* as to what labels have been printed. It requires the operator to print the first and last of batch for verification purposes. It also allows manual insertion of pallets and has full back-up features in case of PLC or label applicator failure.



**Project Benefits**

- Improved Inventory Accuracy
- Reduced Costs
- Faster Turnaround in Production
- High Quality Products
- A&S Service and Reliability

**“Both projects were completed on time and on schedule. The documentation and professional handling of these projects will ensure any future projects will be given to Ahearn & Soper for quoting.”**

**Bonnie Lambert, IT Manager**

In 2001, Baxter Corporation approached Ahearn & Soper Inc. to develop two online bar code label printing and verification systems. **Our challenge was to print, apply and verify that the right label is applied to the correct product, as well as capture raw label data from manufacturing systems and print the label data online.**

Both projects retrieved data from the AS400 manufacturing system and used label applicators to print and apply labels. Both provided offline mode in case of failure to communicate with AS400 or for on-demand products.

**Project Requirements**

This project required specific skills with regards to equipment communications across their computer hardware platforms, as well as label development. The timeline for this project was extremely short and Ahearn was responsible for the **detail design specification** as well as coordinating the software and hardware development and installation.

