Top 10 ERP Tools for Small and Midsize Manufacturers

Top ERP Tools

▶ Role-based dashboards

▶ Social communication

▶ Personalization

▶ Grid access

▶ Purchase suggestions

▶ Lean production

▶ Multi-level capabilities

▶ Quality features

▶ Mobility

▶ BPM

Small and midsize manufacturers continually strive for ways to remain competitive in the global marketplace. Epicor enterprise resource planning (ERP) solutions for manufacturing help drive business goals and simplify operations. The result is streamlined processes that reduce waste, improve throughput, and meet customer needs.

Whether your business strategies are focused on eliminating paper processes, driving new automation, or empowering your employees with better access to information, Epicor ERP provides small and midsize manufacturers with key technologies you shouldn't be without:

1. Role-based dashboards

Respond faster and go paperless with up-to-the-minute information available online. A be armed with the current status of production on the floor, purchases expected for delivery, quality events, and more. With user-based exception dashboards, you get a slice of your data with your applied filters that remove the "data noise" so you can focus on the problems.

2. Social communication

Social communication has become common in our personal lives, and our work lives can also benefit from it with increased productivity, connectivity, and improved customer service. Digital communication tools in Epicor ERP enable collaboration. Staff can share ideas and knowledge across departments—such as communicating maintenance problems from one shift crew to the next or documenting quotes, orders, account disputes, part revisions, or nearly anything within ERP.

3. Customization and personalization

Tailor business processes for a competitive edge with customization and personalization capabilities. These tools allow you to track orders that require special information about customer needs and include it in documentation that goes with each shipment of the order. The information can be tracked in the system alongside the other order data and used in printing, lookups, or anywhere your data is accessed. Not only are you able to more easily fulfill your customer's requirements, you can also respond quickly when their needs change.

4. Grid access

Improve productivity with data grid accessibility, so users can make sweeping changes across multiple records more easily. Integration with Microsoft® Excel® simplifies bringing in multiple rows of data from spreadsheets by pasting them into the grid—there is no need for retyping. Other uses of the Microsoft Excel integration include bringing in a materials list on a bill of material, updating or entering a new schedule of shipments, and entering a series of closing journal

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entries received from your accountant.

5. Purchase suggestions

Buy only what you need and improve cash management with purchase suggestion features that help purchase managers see what's needed based on the latest schedule. The purchase suggestion tools work with production scheduling to help make just-in-time (JIT) purchases and drive buying power from suppliers on bulk purchases. Purchase managers can look into the future to see what demand exists for material next week, next month, or possibly further out. The tight tie between purchasing and scheduling improves agility—if schedules change, you buy only what is needed and save capital for more important initiatives.

6. Lean production

Reduce waste and execute on your lean strategy. Lean production capabilities are designed to manage a work-order-less Kanban manufacturing system with electronic replenishment queues driven by customer demand or directly from the shop floor. A visual Kanban dashboard monitors in real time so production always knows exactly what is needed to meet demand.

7. True multi-level capabilities

Product complexity is exploding at the same time that many original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and Tier 1 and Tier 2 manufacturers are reducing their supply network. As a result, manufacturers must increase product complexity, as well as quickly estimate, cost, and build multi-level assemblies. Epicor ERP allows you to quickly see the tree structure of a multi-level component and build or review the component structure within a single view. This ensures no assembly is missing, no step is omitted, and estimates are more accurate.

8. Embedded quality features

Make quality a key differentiator and reduce the cost of quality with an ERP solution that supports making quality and continuous improvement a part of your company culture, rather than an isolated function in the shop. Quality issues can happen anywhere in the business. Empowering all your employees with quality

information whether they are on the shop floor or the top floor ensures everyone is involved in the quality process and is embracing strategies to improve product quality. It all starts with technology that inherently includes quality in the process flow.

9. Mobility

Access to your business data when and where you need it is a critical business advantage—and increasingly expected by your customers, suppliers, and employees. With mobile-enabled technology, you can respond quickly to business events and communicate with a higher level of knowledge in front of customers and suppliers, as well as on the shop floor.

10. Business process management

Business process management (BPM) tools help improve your business processes, drive out waste, and avoid errors with rules you can set to warn operators or alert managers. You can use BPM tools to avoid late deliveries by monitoring for incorrect release dates, send notifications to the salesperson and customer about order status, create manager approval holds for orders over a certain price or discount, and automatically release jobs to the floor when material is received. The possibilities are practically endless. BPM is a critical tool for process automation and improved accuracy.

Manufacturing ERP that grows with your business

As your business grows, it's important that the technology you deploy is agile and scalable. With Epicor ERP, you can easily transition from one level of functionality to the next and enjoy seamless upgrades. Epicor simplifies deployment choices with Epicor Cloud ERP, and gives you the ability to change as your business needs change. Epicor ERP includes a highly configurable module set so that you can scale your investment in licenses, as well as the implementation efforts. In addition, Epicor ERP can robustly help support business expansion into new markets and global geographies.

About Epicor

Epicor Software Corporation drives business growth. We provide flexible, industry-specific software that is designed around the needs of our manufacturing, distribution, retail, and service industry customers. More than 40 years of experience with our customers' unique business processes and operational requirements is built into every solution—in the cloud or on premises. With a deep understanding of your industry, Epicor solutions spur growth while managing complexity. The result is powerful solutions that free your resources so you can grow your business. For more information, connect with Epicor or visit www.epicor.com.

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