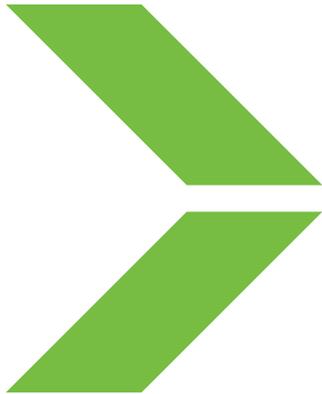




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Beyond the Basics:

The Benefits of an ERP Solution for Small and Mid-Sized Nutraceutical Manufacturers

Perhaps you've been considering an ERP solution for some time. Or perhaps you've implemented a basic ERP, but it doesn't support your needs and now you're supplementing it with other financial systems, or even Microsoft® Excel or Access. This creates more complexity and disparate systems that don't communicate efficiently with each other. Make an honest assessment: How easily can your solution provide reporting, data mining and the precise functionality you need to run your business? And how easily can it provide the accuracy, timeliness and integrity needed to meet customer, industry and regulatory demands?

The bare minimum isn't good enough anymore as your company grows, takes on new business, adds new components and products and keeps up with ever-changing regulations. You need a technology that is more specific to the nutraceutical industry and to your company; one that can drive more efficiency, better assist in meeting quality and regulatory demands, increase profits, provide more tailored business intelligence capabilities and allow you to store, share and track data using one centralized database.

Why an Industry-Specific ERP Solution?

An ERP solution developed for small to mid-sized nutraceutical companies that use batch process manufacturing needs to go beyond the basics of an accounting and Microsoft Excel-based system, or even a one-size-fits-all ERP solution. An industry-specific ERP will provide you with a higher level of control over your data, inventory, quality and lot traceability. When it comes to support, the ERP's team will be knowledgeable and helpful with industry issues because they are dealing with those challenges on a daily basis. An industry-specific ERP solution can adapt to your needs as your products and the industry evolve and change, so you don't have to be tied to an outdated or cumbersome process.

Whether you're a manufacturer considering implementing or changing ERP solutions or are searching for your company's very first one, technology is a long-term commitment, and it's important to have the right fit. Let's examine the key benefits of an ERP solution created specifically for the nutraceutical industry and how it can help you move beyond the basics to the next level of efficiency, productivity and profitability.

More ERP solution benefits for nutraceutical manufacturers

- Effective batch sizing and scaling
- Robust R&D functionality
- Comprehensive multi-phase project costing

Compliance with Shifting Regulations

An industry-specific ERP solution goes beyond ensuring compliance with long-standing rules to help you meet requirements for the latest shifting regulations, including compliance with 21CFR Part 11, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) audits and validation, and current Good Manufacturing Practices (cGMP) requirements. Exceptional controls over complex formulas, accurate labeling practices, exact auditing tools and sound reporting standards give you peace of mind that no matter how the rules are changing, your system will help you keep up.

Accurate Inventory and Lot Tracking

Lot tracking is a huge concern for many nutraceutical manufacturers, and it's an area that many companies want to improve. Given the industry's competitive margins, an ERP solution can give you greater visibility to help control costs, reduce expired inventory and better track all inbound, production and outbound materials. Accurate inventory and lot tracking should be the backbone of your ERP solution, not an add-on.

An industry-specific ERP solution also gives you better visibility into who provided an ingredient, what the ingredient is and when it may expire. It takes into account material yield or loss factors for better planning, costing and margin analysis. It knows what material is out on the floor, in production, in current work areas and more. Knowing these data points in real time is key for determining the timing and quantity of purchases and production, as well as how much inventory to buy, stage and use and how products are truly impacting your bottom line.

An ERP solution makes it easy to look up any item and find out everything you need to know about it. With the ability to access this information across an entire company, you can increase the efficiency of your production flow, fulfill orders more accurately and improve your percent-of-service to your customer base.

Flexible Formulation and Quality Control

You need exceptional controls over complex, multiple-level formulas. The formula system of the right ERP solution allows a chemist to create new formulas, observe physical property calculations as the formula is being developed, record manufacturing instructions, set up quality control tests and distinguish costs for labor, material and overhead – all from within one program.

Quality control tools that understand batch manufacturing ensure that considerations such as scrap losses are accurately tracked and factored. As your volumes increase, product lines added or SKUs grow, an ERP solution that knows the nutraceutical industry ensures quality and formula consistency across your operations.

Flexible formula tools and industry-specific quality control tools are also important when building a custom product. An ERP solution can protect your reputation and quality standards by recording and tracking all materials, product data and quality control results, along with real-time data on your operations. It makes completing complex quality control routines easy, efficient and accurate, which results in quicker turnaround time for your inbound and outbound materials.

Conclusion

In the highly complex and regulated world of nutraceutical manufacturing, there are enormous benefits to working with an ERP solution developed specifically for your industry. Its advanced and relevant functionalities ensure compliance, granular inventory and lot tracking. With formula flexibility and quality control, you can be confident that you are optimizing your efficiencies and delivering a quality product.



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