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REAL-TIME SOLUTIONS

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Protected Allocations in Background Batch Shipping

Although batch shipping already has an existing future allocation feature to protect inventory allocations, one of our customers needed the feature to extend the protection of inventory to be controlled on a sales order by sales order or sales order line by sales order line basis. They needed to accumulate all of the lines for a 400 to 500 line international sales order to ship at the same time but were losing the available inventory for some items while they were waiting on the balance of the inventory to become available. Meanwhile, they had been picking the inventory to try to hold it in the shipping area, but the customer was also changing the sales order. They wanted to put this back in the hands of customer service.

To address this, we've added the ability to set up sales order lines so that the quantities for those items are protected from being shipped on other sales orders. When the background batch shipping process is run, protected inventory is not included in the calculations for quantity available for other sales order lines for the same item up until the estimated ship date for the sales order. Once the estimated ship date has passed, the background batch shipping process will remove the protection. If the user changes the estimated ship date for the sales order, the allocations will remain protected until the new estimated ship date passes.

In addition, a workflow is provided to send a warning when protected allocations are about to expire. Protected allocations for an item can be viewed in program ICSS, Stock Status Inquiry. You can activate the protected allocations for the entire sales order or for a single sales order line on the sales order.

Critical Information for Work Order Inquiries and Shop Paper

Ever be faced with some customers don't want their order if they don't get a certain quantity of an order by a specific date, then they don't want it at all? Are you looking for a way to emphasize those orders in the work order process? If so, we've added three new fields to the work order header in program WOEM, Work Order Entry/Maintenance, which allow you to define the critical due date, critical quantity, and critical short description for the work order.

When entries are made in these fields by a user, the information will be displayed in program WACA, Component Requirement Adjustments by Work Order, and program WALA, Labor Requirements Adjustments, and their inquiry screens. Since these fields are not linked to any other calculations or used anywhere else in the system, each customer can determine what each of the fields means to their business process and have their users enter the desired information. We can even add these fields to your custom shop paper for a nominal cost so that it can printed there.

For more information about this and other features, see the NDS Online Help system or contact your NDS Project Manager today.