Knowledge is power.

aSa® Material Tracking e^x

aSa Material Tracking e^x gives you the power to know exactly where every piece of your order is and how it got there, plus the confidence to know it is where it belongs.

- **Eliminate material flow problems**
  When used with Load Tracking, Material Tracking warns the shop crew when a straight item that should have been bent is about to be shipped.

- **Answer all your questions**
  When the installation crew calls about a problem or missing bundle, a simple on-screen inquiry gives you the answers you need immediately.

- **Track productivity levels**
  By reporting the employee, machine, and time associated with each step of the fabrication process, you can pinpoint problem areas to more easily make shop improvements.

aSa Material Tracking uses barcode scanning technology to record every step of the fabrication process, including the date and time of each operation and the persons responsible for all stages of producing and shipping an item. This real-time record gives you an extra level of quality assurance in the shop. Material Tracking also helps you make smart decisions based on employee and machine productivity rates.

Integration and Intelligence

Designed to complement aSa Production, Load Tracking, and Bundle Inventory, Material Tracking provides verification that each fabrication task is completed successfully. For example, aSa Production software determines that an item will be sheared, table bent, then loaded for shipment. Material Tracking then expects scans at the appropriate shearline, bender, and trailer. If one of these steps is missed, or if the bundle is being loaded onto the wrong trailer, then your shop crew will be warned of a potential error. Environment settings, such as valid employees and details about specific shop equipment, are shared among Load Tracking, Material Tracking, Production, and other aSa applications; these settings allow the system to be customized to meet the needs of any shop.

Technology

Handheld barcode scanners provide you with live information about what's happening in the shop. Each scanner reads barcodes printed on employee name tags and on aSa Production-generated item tags attached to your bundles of steel. aSa TouchTrackers are typically mounted on or near your equipment. These units, which connect to wired or Bluetooth® scanners, contain built-in PCs and color touch-screen monitors. Portable Wi-Fi scanners are also available for stations where a greater range of movement is required.

- **Improve communication**
  Scanner terminals display important information that might get lost if verbally delivered in a noisy shop environment.

- **Track material based on the unique needs of your shop**
  The program is extremely flexible. It is designed to incorporate specific equipment and shop environment settings that you define.

- **Integrate all of your production processes**
  Material Tracking, combined with aSa's Scheduling, Production, and Load Tracking modules, gives you all the information you need to efficiently plan, execute, and follow up on material fabrication and delivery.

aSa Material Tracking allows you to record each stage of the fabrication process by scanning barcoded tags with hand scanners. Helpful information, such as item characteristics and heat numbers, automatically displays on the TouchTracker screen as you scan each tag.

Flexibility

Each shop can be equipped with scanners at all shearing, bending, and end preparation stations. The number and location of required scanners is dependant upon the needs of your operation. A larger shop may want to scan tags at every stage of fabrication, while a smaller company may start with one or two scanners and add others as their needs change.

Material Tracking in Action

Before any operation — shearing, bending, or end preparation — begins, the employee who is responsible for that task scans his nametag. This information is recorded in the database. As each bundle of steel is processed, its tag is likewise scanned. The date and time of each operation is also recorded in the database. Tags for bent items can be scanned twice — before and after bending — to efficiently track production time required for the item. When Material Tracking and Bundle Inventory are used together, the program automatically associates heat numbers to each item as it is fabricated.

Reports and Inquiries

Because the scans load real-time status information into the database, reports and on-screen inquiries are always up-to-the-minute. This allows shop supervisors and schedulers to:

- Check fabrication progress at any time during a shift.
- Review production patterns and pinpoint areas for improvement.
- Answer questions from the jobsite about any bundle.

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