

WaveMark Smart Cabinets

Using KYDEX® Sheet to Help Hospitals Better Manage Inventory and Control Costs

The Company

WaveMark is a company based in Littleton, MA that helps hospitals more efficiently manage and protect their inventories — an exhausting and time-consuming task. With hospitals under pressure to control costs, and with staff operating at reduced levels and at maximum efficiency, hospitals are looking to suppliers like WaveMark for innovative solutions. WaveMark Smart Cabinets utilize RFID (radio-frequency identified) technology to track high cost items in a hospital environment. These systems have been available for six years.

The Opportunity

Hospitals maintain inventories of medical supplies that are expensive and require monitored access. Many products are bar-coded for inventory purposes. Hospitals may own products outright, own products on consignment, or purchase products in bulk, making inventory and secure storage of supplies a fiscal necessity. Further complicating storage needs, many of these products have expiration dates. Additionally, supplies may be recalled at any time by the manufacturer. Clinicians must take time to track and account for inventory as it is used. This can be an issue because of the time and oversight involved in a very busy environment. WaveMark saw an opportunity to resolve this issue by providing tools that combine technology with parts durable enough to withstand the abuse of a high-traffic environment.

The KYDEX, LLC Solution

Plastics are required for storing bar-coded and RFID products, since any type of metal interferes with an RFID signal. However, not all plastics provide the combination of durability, formability and aesthetic properties offered by KYDEX® sheet. KYDEX® sheet is used for thermoformed components in the medical industry because of these qualities and its compliance with hospital code fire ratings. The KYDEX® sheet material was recommended to WaveMark by Mayfield Plastics in Sutton, MA for its ease of manufacturability. WaveMark now uses KYDEX® sheet in almost all major components of their Smart Cabinets: a total of 10 components are produced with KYDEX® sheet, comprising about 60% of each unit cost.

KYDEX® sheet enables WaveMark to easily thermoform and machine the plastic into components, making the cabinets more affordable. The KYDEX® sheet performs its requirements (appearance and form-fit-function) flawlessly. KYDEX® sheet gives the WaveMark cabinets a contemporary appearance; it provides a retainable “handsome” look which has performed extremely well under usability testing. Durability and clean-ability are also important qualities in hospital environments, where the material must be able to withstand daily cleanings, and KYDEX® sheet provides both.



WaveMark Smart Cabinet styles include:

- 5-shelf cabinet with locking doors – ensures security of high-cost supplies
 - RFID PIN identifies the individual who accesses individual product
 - Ideal for high-value products such as implantable cardiac defibrillators or pacemakers
 - Also good for storing products in areas where higher security is necessary
- Wireless mobile cabinet for easy transport from storage to procedure room
 - Maintains real-time read reliability over a 12-hour battery life
- Tabletop cabinet for tracking smaller inventories such as heart valves

KYDEX, LLC

ISO 9001 and 14001 Certified

Customer Service

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Advantages Gained by Using KYDEX® Sheet

KYDEX, LLC has made it easier for WaveMark to expand its business by accommodating short runs and quick lead times. WaveMark's CEO says he would definitely recommend KYDEX® materials for hospital environments. "As a direct result of customer demand, we've added numerous Smart Cabinet styles to store and track a greater variety of products used in hospital specialty departments," said John Wass, CEO, WaveMark, Inc. "The accuracy and access of information captured by WaveMark's RFID cabinets is recognized by hospital administrators as a driving force to reduced costs and improved care. These new cabinet styles are in direct response to requests to track a specific array of products."

KYDEX® sheet enables hospitals to improve cost containment, patient safety and regulatory compliance.

With parts made from KYDEX® sheet, WaveMark cabinets can inventory products with a simple wave over a RFID reader. Counts are updated every 20 minutes, and recall and expiration dates are stored so materials can be removed from inventory and not mistakenly used. The WaveMark Smart Cabinets store and track a wide variety of critical supplies used in specialty departments of hospitals within cath labs, operating rooms and surgical centers. In addition, KYDEX® sheet's adaptability makes it ideal for use in smaller environments, like physician's offices. WaveMark has had a good experience working with KYDEX® and is currently looking for other opportunities to use KYDEX® materials for current and future products.

About KYDEX, LLC

KYDEX is a worldwide leader in specialty thermoplastic sheet manufacturing. Uniquely able to produce products for applications requiring extreme durability and chemical resistance, KYDEX provides medical-grade thermoplastic materials to many of the medical device designers throughout the world. KYDEX has a proven track record of delivering consistent, high-quality product in accelerated timeframes.

Learn more about KYDEX at kydex.com.

About WaveMark

WaveMark provides hospitals and medical device manufacturers with enterprise-wide real time inventory management and supply chain optimization solutions by leveraging cloud computing, mobile and RFID technologies. WaveMark interoperable solutions are deployed internationally to track medical devices, reduce healthcare costs and improve the quality of patient care.

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