

## Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4

### Workflow Enhancements Across A Range Of Modules Make For Smoother, Faster Processing

**S**age ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4 is scheduled for release in the second quarter of 2011. The release is packed with usability enhancements designed to create smoother, yet more flexible workflow. In this article, we provide a high-level preview of the entire release. Also in this issue we highlight the new capabilities added in the Accounts Receivable and Advanced Manufacturing modules.

#### Enhancements Across Modules

Version 7.4 includes enhancements across a range of Sage ERP MAS 500 modules, as well as a series of technology updates. Here is a high-level look at some of the enhancements:

- Enhancements for the Advanced Manufacturing module make it easier to enter and process manufacturing transactions. It includes enhancements to backflush processes when bins are used, as well as more flexible Work Order step completion options.
- The Accounts Receivable module enhancements include new ways to process customer credits and refunds.
- The Inventory Management module enhancements focus on decimal precision, rounding and related Unit of Measure features.
- The Inventory Replenishment module benefits from more flexibility in assigning



and overriding the Primary Vendor used for replenishment orders and for MPR planning.

- Improvements to the Purchase Order module focus on Landed Cost, with options to define customized landed cost types, allocation methods, and override capabilities.
- Performance improvements have been made in Business Insights; you can limit the amount of data being processed to obtain quick results with only the

information you need.

- Technology updates, including support for the latest versions of the Sage ERP MAS 500 programming language and database management system, ensure your system is compatible with the most current hardware and operating system platforms.

Now let's take a closer look at the enhancements for the Accounts Receivable and Advanced Manufacturing modules.

## Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4

(continued from cover)

### Accounts Receivable Enhancements

Customers do not always submit payments that tie neatly to existing invoices. Version 7.4 of Sage ERP MAS 500 provides you with an easy way to track and apply overpayments, or issue refunds if appropriate, in a way that makes sense to both you and your customers.

You now have the ability to apply overpaid amounts to an existing invoice and track the balance using the original invoice number. This is accomplished through the ability to create invoices with a negative amount.

You can create the negative invoice in the part of the system that makes most sense to you, whether in the Enter Cash Receipts task or the Apply Payments and Memos task. You can apply the overpayment amounts to a Customer Payment, a Credit Memo or to the negative balance of another overpaid invoice.

The overpaid amount appears, with the original invoice number, in all the expected places such as:

- Print or Re-Print Invoices
- Customer Status Ledger tab
- Customer Statements
- Aged Receivables
- AR Trial Balance
- Explore Invoice Applications
- Explore Customer Payments Applications

If the unapplied payment amount from your customer is a true overpayment, you may wish to issue a refund. With Version 7.4, this process is as easy and painless as possible. Process Cash Receipts has been enhanced to allow the creation of a customer refund from start to finish, including printing the check, all from one task. Refund checks use the customer information without the need to create a vendor or a voucher to save you steps

and increase your productivity.

### Advanced Manufacturing Enhancements

An important focus of this release is the Advanced Manufacturing module. Workflow enhancements were designed in close collaboration with customers to make the new features user friendly.

A new check box is added that allows you to complete a Work Order step without issuing material. Using the new check box, you can clear the outstanding materials associated with a Work Order step from the quantity required for work order in the replenishment calculation. This is useful for manufacturers who use work orders to record labor and processing costs for non-inventory materials used in producing their final product. Now material issues are not required, offering greater flexibility in processing.


Another situation where the new check box can be useful is when you are generating a partial completion of a work order with no plan to process the remaining quantities. Clearing the remaining quantities allows the outstanding materials on replenishment calculations to be removed automatically; this prevents overstated demand and the potentially costly overstocking of materials.

New Production Return Entry and Progress Return Entry tasks in Version 7.4 of Sage ERP MAS 500 provide a simple way to correct data entry errors that inevitably occur in a busy manufacturing plant. Using the familiar format of the original entry, the Production Return Entry and Progress Return Entry tasks relieve the quantity produced amounts, return all of the costs to work in progress, and reopen the individual steps for adjustments as needed. Whether the error was on an individual step or on the total

quantity produced, these tasks make the recovery easy and intuitive.

Bin tracking often can be an essential part of a streamlined fulfillment process for your orders, whether you are a manufacturer, distributor, or both. With Version 7.4, you now have the ability to use the backflush material issue method while also tracking bins. You can either use the existing Distribution bins for manufacturing transactions, or designate separate Manufacturing-specific bins. Once at least one preferred manufacturing bin is established for a warehouse, materials can be issued using the backflush method according to the precedence as defined during setup. This makes the workflow faster and simpler. Items that are Lot or Serial tracked will still require manual distribution.

Posting manufacturing transactions can be a complex process. Monitoring manufacturing costs, tracking those costs to an individual item, and measuring productivity are critical to running a profitable manufacturing business. With Version 7.4, the posting task has been re-designed to provide you with a central dashboard allowing you view all your different transaction types, such as WIP, labor, materials, and outside processing, all on one screen. This allows you to easily select and de-select the transactions to be posted, while saving time and reducing the possibility of errors. The new task also ensures the transaction dates in the subsidiary Inventory Management ledger always tie to the corresponding journal dates in the General Ledger, to simplify the reconciliation task for the back office.

Give us a call with your questions, or to schedule your upgrade to Sage ERP MAS 500 Version 7.4. 

# Tips And Tricks

## How To Process Write Offs In Accounts Receivable And Accounts Payable

In this tip we explain how to write off both Accounts Receivable amounts that you will not be collecting from customers, and Accounts Payable amounts that you will not be paying vendors.

### Process Accounts Receivable Write Off

1. First, verify that your setup options are correctly configured for processing write-offs. In Accounts Receivable setup, enter an amount in *Maximum Write Off Amount* on the *Other* tab of Set Up AR Options. You also must select the *Allow Write Offs* option for the customers on the Defaults tab in Maintain Customers. This option also can be specified in Maintain Customer Classes for new customers employing the class.

2. To process a write off, create a new batch in Process Cash Receipts and select *Enter Cash Receipts*.

3. Select the Customer and enter a *Payment Reference*.

4. Enter the amount being paid or \$0 if only processing a write off.

5. Choose the appropriate Payment Method. If you are processing a write off for the entire invoice, select the *Other* tab and choose *Cash* as the Payment Method. Select the *Application* tab.

6. Choose the appropriate invoice in the invoice grid. This will fill in the Payment Applied with the amount of the payment. The Amount Remaining will contain the balance of the invoice. To write off this amount, select the write off option next to this field. Note: This function only is enabled if the amount is less than the maximum configured in Set Up AR Options.

7. Select *OK* to save the cash receipt. If you are writing-off the entire amount, after selecting the invoice, simply select the write-off option, click *OK*, then save the cash receipt. Post the batch. The write-off account used is the one associated with customer class assigned to the invoice. If you use Account overrides, they will apply.

### Process Accounts Payable Write Off

1. First, verify that you have filled in an amount in *Maximum Write Off Limit* on the Main tab of Set Up AP Options.

2. Create a new batch in Process Invoices for Payment or Process Manual Checks.

3. Select *Enter Payment* or *Enter Checks*.

4. Choose the Vendor and enter or select the Payment Reference. Enter the amount being paid or \$0 and select the Detail tab.

5. Choose the appropriate voucher from the grid. Enter the Payment amount. The New Balance will calculate the balance of the voucher. To write off this amount, select the write-off option next to this field. This function only is enabled if the amount is less than the maximum configured in Set Up AP Options.

6. Select *OK* save the payment. If you are writing-off the entire amount, after selecting the voucher, simply select the write-off option, click *OK*, then save the payment. Post the batch. The write-off account used is the one associated with vendor class assigned to the voucher. Overrides do apply. ✨

## How A Closeout Transaction Is Created In Work Order Transaction Inquiry

A Closeout transaction is created when you close a work order with leftover costs in WIP. In other words, not everything issued has been progressed, and total fields are not equal to the sum of the update fields. Leftover costs in WIP occur when entering a work order transaction against the progress step as follows:

- Progressing standard-cost items at a cost other than the standard cost.
- Progressing non-standard-cost items, and absorbing a negative cost tier, to get back to zero on-hand quantity. If the quantity on hand becomes positive, the positive-cost tier will accept the cost.
- Partially progressing against a work order (for example, not progressing for the full quantity of the work order all at once) several times, with enough raw materials in WIP to cover the total quantity progressed, and not setting the Complete flag to Y on the Labor Entry screen for the final progress labor entry.

These scenarios leave cost in WIP when the work order is completed through the Work Order completion entry task. This results in a Closeout transaction which will post to the Manufacturing Variance accounts. ✨



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT:

### Microsoft SQL Server Bundled With Sage ERP MAS 500

For Sage ERP MAS 500 customers, Microsoft® SQL Server 2008 R2 Standard edition now is available directly from Sage as Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition. Sage ERP MAS 500 was designed from the ground up on the SQL Server platform. The Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition now offers one stop shopping for platform and software. Limited for use with Sage and Sage-related products, it is otherwise identical to the full Microsoft® SQL Server 2008 R2 Standard edition.

Existing customers can take advantage of this edition when they deploy a new instance of the SQL Server, such as at a new location, or when purchasing new hardware.

Products that integrate directly with Sage ERP MAS 500, such as Endorsed Solutions, may also be used on the Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition.

#### Licensing Options

The Sage Runtime Edition licenses offer the same full capabilities as the Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Standard and can be purchased either as per user or per processor licenses. The per user or client access licensing (CAL) may be the most cost effective for customers planning to implement and run SQL with less than 20 users.

Customers with 20 or more users,

may want to consider purchasing the per processor licensing model. The per processor option allows for an unlimited number of users. Additional users for Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition can be purchased individually.

#### No Restrictions On Performance, Users, Or Database Size

Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition is a fully functional version of Microsoft SQL Server 2008 R2 Standard edition, complete with tools and utilities. Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition should not be confused with the free SQL Server Express edition. The Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition has no restrictions on performance, number of users, or database size. The free SQL Server Express edition is only supported on the Small Business edition of Sage ERP MAS 500.

#### New Releases Available To Customers On Maintenance And Support

Customers current on maintenance or support plan who have also purchased Sage SQL Server Runtime Edition licenses are entitled to the latest compatible release of Microsoft SQL Server at no additional charge. Additionally, as each new version of Sage ERP MAS 500 is released, these

customers will automatically receive the latest compatible release of Microsoft SQL Server.

Please call us with any questions. ✨

### CONTACT INFORMATION

#### ESC Software

1620 W. Fountainhead Parkway  
Suite 507

Tempe, AZ 85282

(480) 784-1622

(866) 248-3241 toll free

(480) 784-1623 fax

info@escsoftware.com

www.escsoftware.com

Authorized Partner

Request  
More  
Information

