World-Class Pharmaceutical Provider Gets a Dose of CPI’s RMR® Industrial Enclosures to Protect Equipment in Distribution Warehouses

Headquartered in Valley Forge, Pa., AmerisourceBergen is one of the world’s largest distributors of pharmaceuticals to retail pharmacies, specialty physician group purchasing organizations (GPOs) and hospitals. To support such a vital supply chain, the company manages an extensive IT infrastructure that continues to expand into environments outside the traditional office building and data center.

Check-Up: Supply Chain Requires New IT Infrastructure

AmerisourceBergen operates 26 United States pharmaceutical distribution centers, four U.S. specialty distribution centers and two Canadian distribution centers. With such a vast logistics system, the IT staff frequently faced several challenges in the distribution centers, or warehouses. The most significant being the environment in which the IT equipment—servers, storage devices and network switches—was being housed in.

Because of the nature of work conducted in the distribution centers, there was dust, dirt and debris getting into the cabinets, which could potentially compromise the equipment. The company needed a tough, durable solution to protect its valuable IT equipment, and the network it supports.

“One of the big things about the RMR cabinets that we really liked is that they are for the most part waterproof, which is a big benefit to us.”

Joe Hoskins, Director of Data Center Management

“Of the issues we had is that the cabinets we used in the past weren’t sealed cabinets. We’d open up a cabinet to inspect the IT gear and do break-fix activity, and it’d be covered with dust and debris that had been there for a very long time,” stated Joe Hoskins, Director of Data Center Management for AmerisourceBergen.

Furthermore, the previous cabinets in AmerisourceBergen’s distribution centers were not the right size. With equipment and network switches getting larger, the cabinets were no longer properly housing the equipment or allowing room for cable management. This posed several issues, including exposing the equipment to the dusty warehouse environment.
“Cabinet width is standard, but the depth is different. We would go to do network refreshes in some of the cabinets in the warehouses, and the switch was deeper. So, we couldn’t close the doors, and there wasn’t adequate cable management,” Hoskins explained.

**Remedy: RMR Industrial Enclosures + Reliable Power and Cable Management**

Considering the type of equipment AmerisourceBergen was housing, as well as the harsh distribution center environment, CPI recommended its RMR Modular Enclosure. The RMR (pronounced “armor”) Modular Enclosure is an industrial enclosure engineered to protect equipment with cutting-edge seal technology and certified NEMA Type 12 and IP 55 ingress protection ratings.

“Remedying these challenges required not only enclosed enclosures, but also the ability to control dust and debris in the environment. The RMR cabinets were the perfect solution,” said Hoskins.

RMR protects equipment from dust and light spray, making it an ideal solution when placing networking equipment in a warehouse or manufacturing environment.
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AmerisourceBergen also deployed eConnect® Monitored Power Distribution Units (PDUs) with the RMR Enclosures. eConnect PDUs are designed to withstand the high heat loads of any environment. In addition, they provide continuous, automated monitoring of each PDU and individual outlet, providing measurement at the equipment rack level.

“AmerisourceBergen also implemented CPI Cable Management. In standard cabinets, horizontal cable managers are generally used, but AmerisourceBergen took a different approach.

“We wanted to go more toward a model that we utilized in our data center, which is vertical cable management with horizontal cable manager at the very top of the cabinet to keep everything very nice, neat and consistent,” said Hoskins.

Prognosis: Positive Outcome Drives Company Forward

Now, the vital equipment in AmerisourceBergen’s distribution centers are protected against the harsh environment. In addition to protecting against dust, dirt and debris, the RMR Enclosures and accessories are properly storing, cooling, and powering the company’s IT equipment, providing an efficient IT protection system.

AmerisourceBergen has seven to nine RMR Modular Enclosures in each warehouse location. To provide consistency at each site and to simplify ordering, CPI created a custom part number for the company, including accessories. Now, when AmerisourceBergen orders an RMR Modular Enclosure, it arrives properly configured with accessories installed, which saves valuable installation time.

“We worked with the team to essentially mock up a cabinet so that when it comes off the truck, you simply roll it into place, and plug up your power. The power is in it, fans are in it and cable managers are in the positions that we need,” Hoskins said.

“[CPI has] two-week lead times for data center cabinets, and that’s really good. That was a big thing for me looking at product manufacturing—the lead times,” he concluded.

With CPI’s RMR Modular Enclosures and accessories in place, AmerisourceBergen is better prepared to address the dynamic changes in the healthcare industry with reliable delivery and on-time response to enhance customer care.

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