

CHEMICAL DISTRIBUTORS MONITOR CUSTOMER INVENTORY LEVELS WITH RACO VERBATIM SYSTEMS



RACO's Chemical Tank Reporting System enables distributors of chemicals to automate the on-site monitoring of customer inventory levels. The system is designed to notify the distributor when any customer storage tank reaches a pre-programmed low set point. The system can also be configured to report current tank levels when requested.

The reporting system streamlines logistics and delivery scheduling. It increases on-time replenishment and minimizes expensive and time-consuming early mid-level tank refills. It can also alert the distributor to an

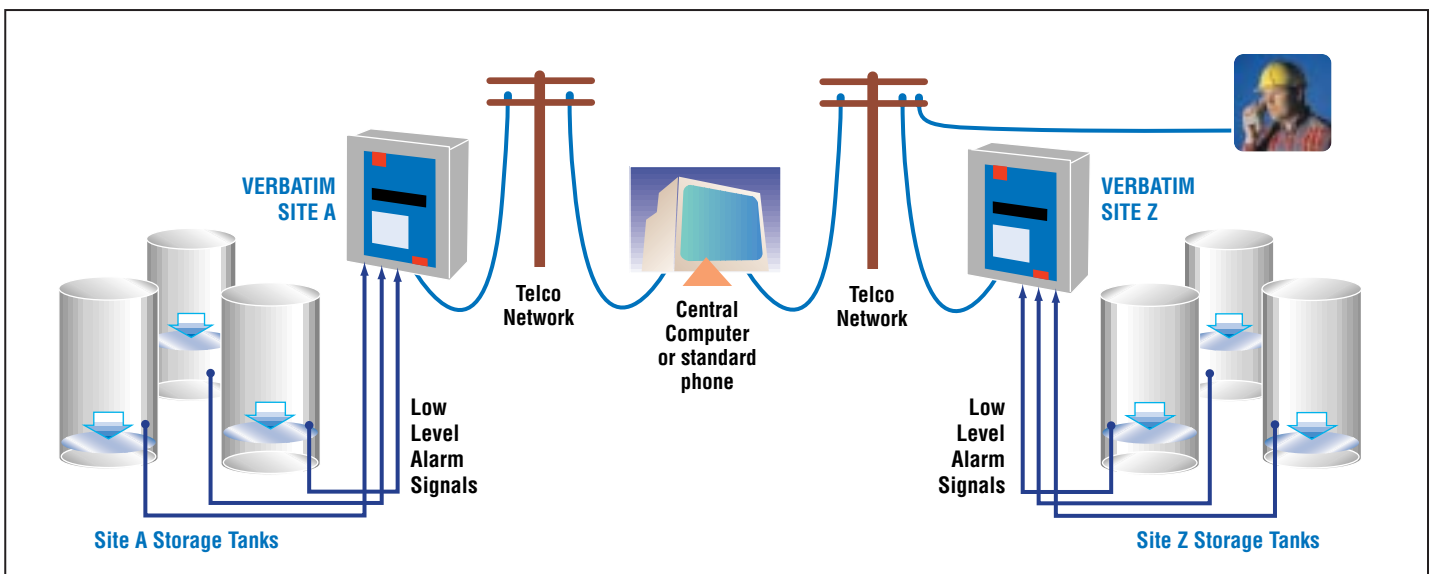
increase in a customer's usage rate, keeping them from prematurely exhausting their supply.

As shown in the accompanying diagram, a system can be setup to handle multiple customer sites, with multiple tanks at each site. A Verbatim Remote Terminal Unit (RTU) is placed at each customer location, programmed to monitor any number of tanks at that location up to the Verbatim's capacity of 32 digital inputs and 16 analog inputs. If the number of points exceeds that amount, additional expansion boards and/or RTUs may be utilized

to increase the size of the network.

The system is simple. A target-refill level is set for each customer storage tank—a two-day remaining supply, for example. When the tank level falls below that set point, the Verbatim will automatically report the condition to the chemical distributor, who will take appropriate action to refill the tank. The report will specify the customer location and the specific tank involved.

A Verbatim unit can be programmed to report to a computer or call standard phones, cell phones, numeric



A reporting system can be setup to handle multiple sites, with multiple tanks at each site. When a customer's storage tank reaches its low set point, an alarm signal is sent to its associated Verbatim RTU. The Verbatim then reports the condition to the distributor's central computer or standard phone.

or voice pagers, or voicemail systems. Additional phone numbers can be programmed for the alarm calling sequence if the primary number is unattended at the time of calling. Supervisory personnel can call in at any time from any standard touch-tone phone to get a status report or change programming.

The manner in which the reports are processed depends upon the distributor's individual order processing procedure. Large systems can be computerized to aid in handling deliveries and maintain information on customer activity and inventory levels. In a less structured network, the Verbatim RTUs can be programmed to simply call the distributor's phone number to provide the inventory details.

When a Verbatim calls a phone or voicemail system, inventory information is given by means of a digitally prerecorded voice message. When the reporting system is setup, the distributor digi-

tally voice pre-records customer location and tank identification numbers for each RTU. This can be done at the site or over the phone. When an alarm is reported, the voice "bites" are electronically combined by the Verbatim to form a complete voice message. At a later date, messages can be added, deleted, and changed as necessary.

The Verbatim is available with or without front panel programming capability. In the latter case-the Secure Front Panel (SFP) configuration-the system does not have front panel keypad and related controls. With the SFP option, system programming can only be done over the phone by authorized distributor personnel. This restricts local access to the system, while reducing the purchase price. All other Verbatim system functions are operational.

If a customer location is inaccessible by standard phone lines, RACO's

Cellularm™ system can provide alarm reporting over the cellular telephone network. A Cellularm system consists of a cellular phone transceiver packaged together with a Verbatim unit in a compact, weather resistant housing that is easy to transport and set up in the field.

RACO systems offer significant cost savings over other types of systems. First, you do not have to pay for a lot of unused functionality. Next, Verbatim systems do not require dedicated phone lines. They communicate over the standard landline or wireless telephone network. And because Verbatim systems report by exception, continuous polling is not required. They report only when a pre-programmed alarm condition is reached, unless the distributor calls for a status report.

Contact us today for system applications information at...

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