



SP^{CE}PCS

Information Pack

A comprehensive Sheet Plant Operation Control System



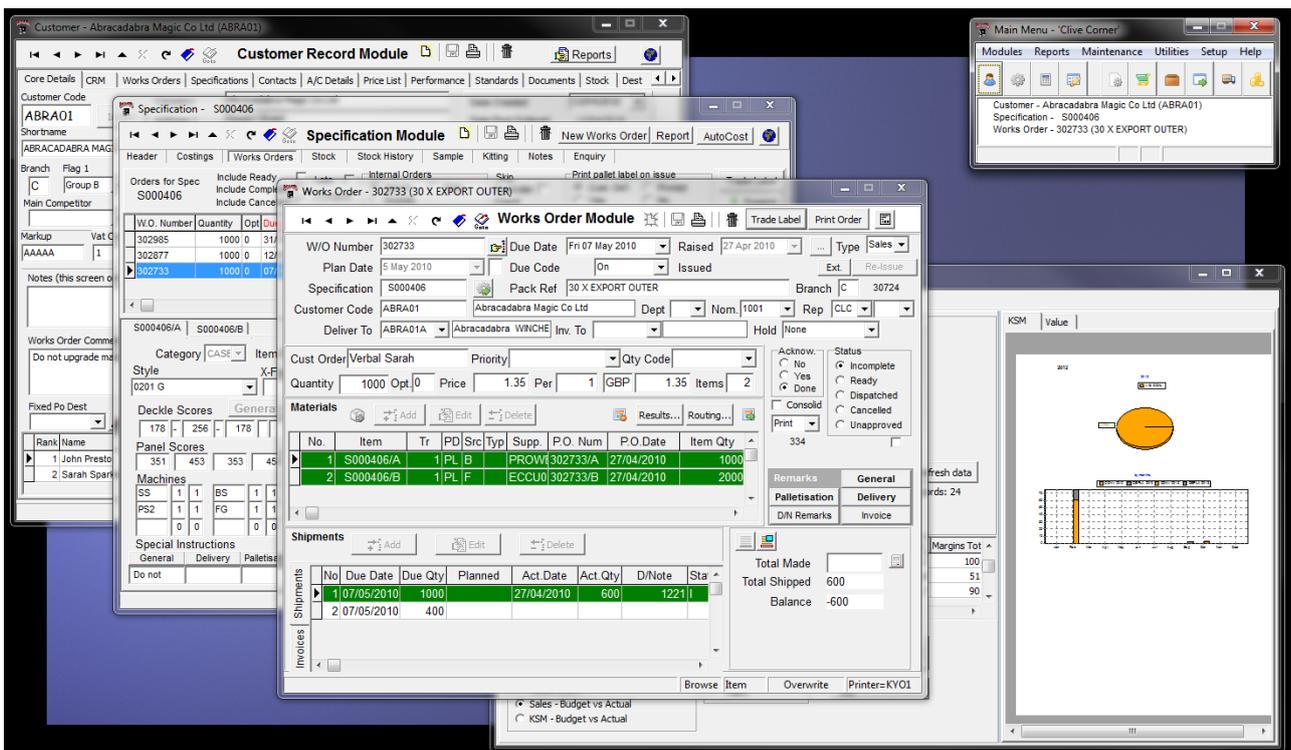
S.P.O.C.S. the Sheet Plant Operations Control System has been helping run Sheet Plants since 1989. It has been a 32-bit Windows System since 1999 using advanced Client/Server architecture and continuous development means it gets cleverer all the time. Now in the Core Elements edition it makes even more sense for the smaller Sheet Plant.

- It handles all of the administrative needs of a sheet plant from enquiry to invoicing and all of the stages in between.
- It is designed to help you grow and to grow with you.
- It is designed and written by people who know and have worked in the industry. It talks your language, it knows what you want from a computer system.
- The system is user-configurable to emulate your working practices.
- **Natural Navigation** means finding the right information fast.

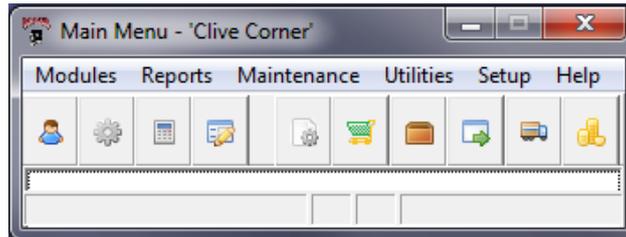
Productivity Built In

SPOCS^{CE} uses a modern multiple window interface to allow users maximum access to the data. Individual independent windows for different forms such as Customer records, Specifications and Estimates mean higher productivity and less disruption in dealing with incoming queries.

Each window can be separately minimised or closed with the toolbar maintaining ultimate control of the application.

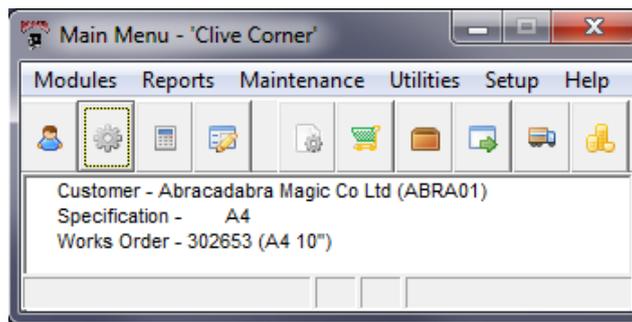


Once you have logged in (and the Security System is the most powerful we have seen) you meet the Main Toolbar.



This places all the major functions at your fingertips and everything else just a mouse-click away. This toolbar stays on screen all the while SPOCS^{CE} is running and not only provides access to the system functions but also feedback on which forms you have open and what they are doing.

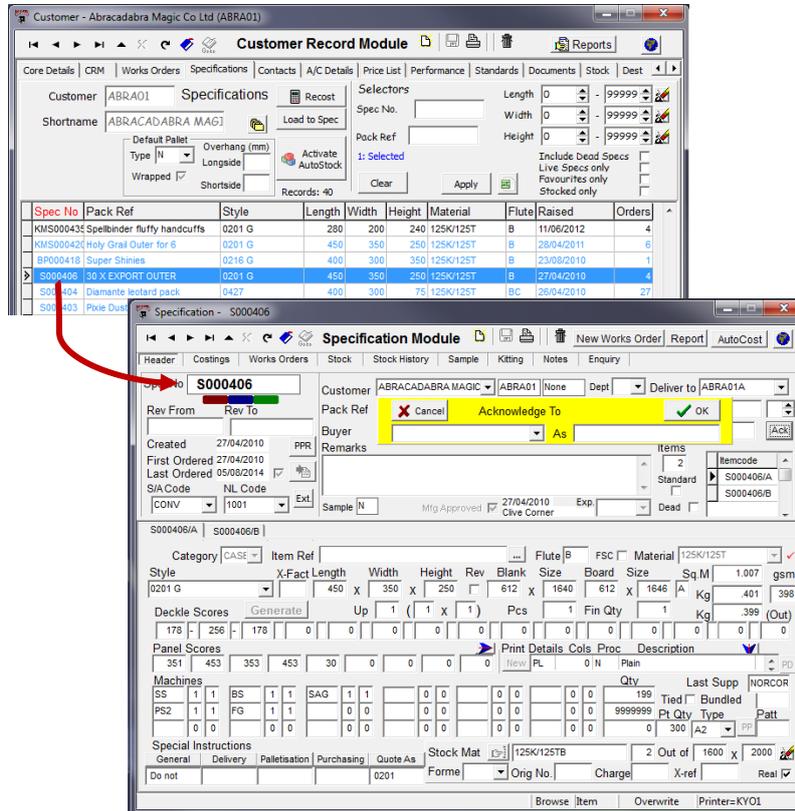
Here is another view of it with two forms open.



A simple double-click on either will go straight to that form. Thus the power of having multiple forms open simultaneously does not lead to confusion but to rapid switching between tasks - the normal behaviour of a busy sheet plant!

Natural Navigation

Entering information into a system is simple, the fun starts when you want to get it out. SPOCS^{CE} is designed to enable natural jumps from screen to screen as the information is sought. In the **Specifications** tab of the **Customer Record** you can see specifications for that customer and launch directly into the Spec screen for the chosen Spec by double clicking on that spec.:



Similarly, from the Spec you can select the **Costing** or **Works Orders** tab and just double click to go directly to a particular WO or costing.

The Velvet Glove

Everyone knows the old “Garbage In, Garbage Out” adage about information systems. SPOCS^{CE} goes a long way to preventing the Garbage getting in. Most functions rely on selection from existing data rather than entering figures from memory or written on bits of paper. So to create a Purchase Order you are offered a list of things that need ordering, to create a Delivery Note you are offered a list of Works Orders due for shipping. Good practice is enforced by reducing the amount of typing and giving the operator every assistance in making the right choices. You can decide how rigorous the system should be and set it accordingly.

Power delivered Simply

Specifications are generated from a library of Styles that can be extended indefinitely. Estimates are raised automatically but may then be manually adjusted to meet market conditions while safeguarded by your threshold settings against over-enthusiastic price reduction.

Stock Control is implemented in a simple yet thorough manner which allows incoming board to be held as stock or issued directly and will reduce stock when deliveries are made. Stock transfers and adjustments are thus unnecessary for the majority of jobs but the functions are all there to cope with the increasing need for stock management in sheet plants. Call-off management is streamlined to permit rapid and accurate completion of customer requirements.

Quotations, Acknowledgements and all other documents are designed to be as flexible as possible to enable you to differentiate your company image from other users. Documents may include graphics and thus totally avoid the need for expensive letterhead stationery.

The system can produce pallet labels, both for despatch and goods in, complete with Bar-Codes if required. And since it is increasingly common nowadays for customers to lay down the format for labels on incoming goods - multiple formats (up to 999 of them) are possible and are customer linked to automatically meet customer demands for particular formats.

The built-in report editor allows you to modify existing reports and create new document formats in a visual environment with powerful internal calculation capabilities. Many reports allow direct export to Excel.

Automatic connection to your email server can send documents (Quotes, Acknowledgements, Invoices etc) by email as simply as printing them.

Purchasing can be further automated with several sheet feeders by automatically created data files which are sent in place of a printed order and imported directly to their order processing systems. This saves time and avoids errors.

Invoice Data Transfer

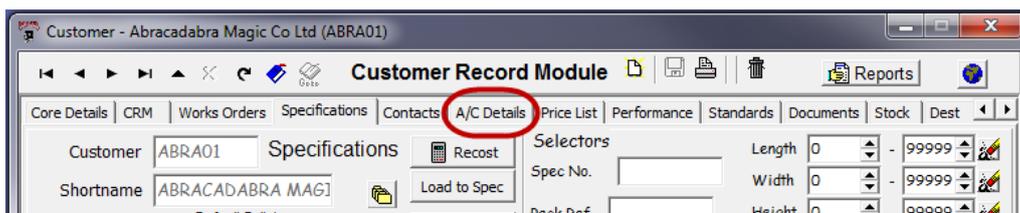
SPOCS^{CE} does not include an accounting system because most sheet plants already have one and have personnel trained to use it. What the system can already do *at no extra cost* is transfer data into all of the popular accounting packages such as Sage, Pegasus, Tetra etc.

If we do not currently cater for your accounting system (or it has been customised by your dealer) we will happily discuss a new format with your accounting system supplier and add it for a very reasonable fee.

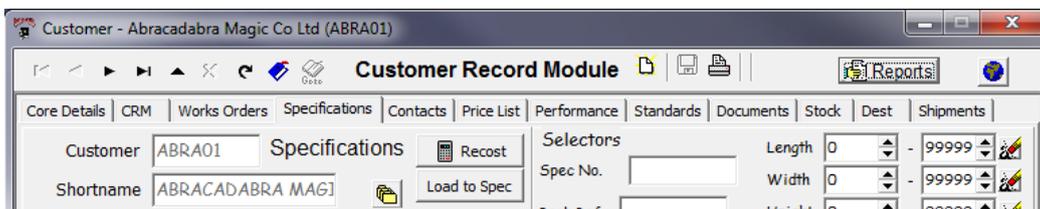
Power delivered Securely

The Security Model adopted by the SPOCS^{CE} allows for individual screen components to be rendered **Read-only**, **Disabled** or even **Invisible** for each user. This is kept simple by the use of **User-Templates** for creating new users. This means that low level users can be allowed into forms which they may need for reference but without the ability to make changes and that sensitive information can be concealed even on commonly accessed forms. For example there is a tab on the **Customer Record** screen which accesses the page of confidential information on the customer's accounts data (credit limit etc), flagging this as "Invisible" in the security settings for your general User-Template and then enabling it for privileged users will mean that no one else even knows it exists.

Now you see it (circled in red)



Now you don't.



The second user also has the icon for delete disabled.

Transaction logging ensures traceability when things go wrong. When a user creates, changes or deletes any of the major records it is logged. If you have ever wanted to know "Who changed this Spec?" and been met with blank faces then you know how useful this can be. The funny thing is that when users are aware that transaction logging is active on a system - they make fewer errors.

The third element of the security system is a simple text file generated by the system every time it is run. This contains any error messages generated during that session and thus completely avoids the "A message came up - but I can't remember what it said" which is the nightmare of every help desk. Simply e-mail (or print and fax) it to us and we are immediately much closer to a diagnosis of your problem. This file also catches the worst crime of all - the user who simply switches off!

Optional Module

Rapid Enquiry and Tender Module

This module makes dealing with bulk enquiries much easier. When the customer gives you a list of 20 sizes or many variants in grade then this can radically reduce the time taken to quote them.

There are two elements to this system and they work independently: **Rapid Enquiry** will create and autocost single item Specs, while the **Tender Module** can be used for pricing (previously set up) Specs of any number of items in one operation.

Upgrade Path

SPOCS^{CE} is designed to give you all the core features of the full SPOCS³² system as used in some of the biggest sheet plants in the country. What we have done is to remove the features that won't stop you getting full use out of the system but are more oriented to larger operations. **Automating Goods In** for example is much more necessary when you have a dozen board lorries each day rather than two.

However the day will come when you want more users than SPOCS^{CE} allows, or to put in shop floor automation or capacity planning or one of the other features of the full package, and when that day comes we will be happy to help with the upgrade.

The first question as ever is cost and we'd like to assure you that everything you spend on buying SPOCS^{CE} will be discounted against the cost of the upgrade.

The database is fully compatible and there is no data conversion or translation.

You might want to book some training on the new features you will acquire but that can be phased in.

In a word – Painless.

Equipment Specifications for SPOCS^{CE}

Minimum Specification

Any modern PC will run SPOCS^{CE} but limited resources may mean that it will not be able to load many forms at once and will be relatively slow. Also any other applications will seriously affect operating speed. For these reasons we recommend a minimum of 2Gb of RAM.

Recommended Specification

SPOCS^{CE} will run normally on 4Gb of RAM. Other applications will impinge upon operating speed.

Operating System

Windows 7, 8 or above, Professional version**. Windows XP will currently work but future support is not guaranteed.

Screen Resolution

SPOCS^{CE} is designed to work with a minimum screen resolution of 1024 x 768. You will need to ensure that monitors are large enough to show these resolutions comfortably for the user. Users with special visual needs may require larger screens.

Minimum Server Specification

Operating System	Windows 2008 Server, 2012 Server, 2016 Server
RAM	4Gb absolute minimum
Hard Disk	50Gb min space spare for SPOCS ^{CE}

(NB Any Windows Server should have at least 25% free space on the system drive and 20% on other drives)

Any lower configuration should be considered as being on a trial basis and potentially in need of upgrade.

** The "Home" varieties of Windows are unable to join a business domain. This should rule them out for use in any business network running a SPOCS system.

Remote Access

We require the ability to access the system for maintenance, upgrades and troubleshooting. This is set up over the Internet using a variety of tools to suit your system.

Printers

SPOCS^{CE} will output to any printer. However in a business environment consideration needs to be given to the running costs. For example an inkjet may be very good for small-scale presentation work but would be horribly expensive for pallet labels.

We are happy to advise on suitable equipment or to liaise with your existing suppliers.

Contact Us

Please feel free to call and discuss the product with us. We will be happy to arrange a demonstration for you, either at our offices, or at your own premises.

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