

HODGE

Case Study



Jay Zimmer of The Hodge Company realized that the company's current way of managing hot parts needed some enhancements and saw the need to innovate. As a 3PL for Deere, Hodge is moving thousands of parts a week through their warehouses. Currently much of Hodge's focus is on John Deere's Construction and Forestry plants in Dubuque and Davenport, Iowa. When dealing with thousands of parts, even a small percentage of exceptions and expedite requests (commonly called "hot part requests") distracts everyone from the main flow of parts and adds a tremendous level of stress as everyone works to ensure the line keeps flowing.

THE CHALLENGE

Hot Parts



Jay and his team are responsible for delivering hundreds of “Hot Exceptions” parts that are needed ASAP. Before engaging with Stratawise, like many companies still do, Hodge communicated hot requests through **spreadsheets and hundreds of daily back and forth emails** between multiple groups of people.

Jay was familiar with Stratawise (now known as StrataFlows) because his team used it to respond to part count requests from the StrataFlows Audit Request module for Deere. When Jay asked around, he learned that StrataFlows has solved similar challenges to his, such as the Warehouse **Hot Part module** used by many of Deere’s plants. Members of the Deere team recommended Jay to reach out to Stratawise to see how we could help.





IMPLEMENTING A SOLUTION

After a setting up a quick demonstration of StrataFlows, Jay was able to see how the module brings visibility, communication, accountability, and efficiency to John Deere's hot part request between their factories and warehouses, and he wanted the same between his company/warehouses and the John Deere factories. The existing Hot Parts automation StrataFlows provides is from a storage location in the warehouse to a line location in the plant. Jay needed to automate upstream, from the supplier to the storage location in the warehouse or line location at the factory.

The emphasis that the StrataFlows Hot Part module has on real time data within the John Deere plants sparked Jay's interest. StrataFlows can offer many elements an excel spreadsheet and emails cannot:

- Single source of truth
- Controlled, automated workflow
- Targeted emails to key stakeholders without the loss of communication
- Data validation and autofill of fields from SAP data
- Historical visibility
- Integrated, shared reporting and dashboards

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I'm so relieved to no longer worry about the stress of juggling hundreds of emails daily with copies of Excel spreadsheets trying to track and communicate changes—and worry if that shipment that needed to be there at 6am to keep production flowing is really going to be there.

- Jay Zimmer, Hodge

The new module put in place for the Hodge Company is easily customizable to fit into the company's current system. The module works by the request being initiated by a Material Coordinator which in turn triggers an email to the Supply Management planner. The request is initially in a state of review, and once reviewed, the request is posted to the warehouse Hot Sheet view. This indicates the shipment is in-transit and clearly displays the shipping details for everyone to view. If after submission the part cannot be fulfilled, the logistics worker can report it through StrataFlows, triggering a notification back to the Material Coordinator. The Planner can then resolve the issue by updating the request details and commenting on the resolution as needed, notifying the warehouse the issue has been resolved.



As part of the real-time tracking StrataFlows provides, the module gives access to Pareto charts, which can show progress of each request over time and also help identify areas of issue or concern. As part of fulfilling the request, the reason code for the parts expedite is another data point that is captured. These codes can also show whether issues are attributed to Deere or the supplier. The module allows Hodge to then find the root cause of issues, allowing for easier correction of problems.

SUCCEEDING WITH StrataFlows

By streamlining Hodge's purchased hot requests, Jay said "with this system, we can have the necessary visibility and control to know we've done what we can to ensure parts are where they need to be." As we wrapped up our interview with Jay for this article, his mind was already on the next opportunity for him and his team to innovate to improve the speed and reliability of their service using StrataFlows. As a result of utilizing StrataFlows, Hodge was able to identify the main root causes of hot part issues:

Plant Issues

- Write off
- Build ahead
- Carrier Failure

Supplier Issues

- Quality problems
- Routine delinquencies
- Shipping made out of frequency
- Less than 24hr Notice

Hot Part Request HPR-00010
Awaiting Receipt

Material

Requested Material
AH8903

Supplier
Bare

Description
NUT, SQUARE

Quantity
1

Priority
1-High (Line Down)

Location

Source Location
23

Destination Location
44

Warehouse Location
Whse Loc 3

Requesting Department

Receipt Complete Save Close Window



StrataFlows

The Material Flow Solution

- Reduce the frequency and volume of expedites
- React more optimally when material inevitably needs to be expedited
- Capture the metrics that enable process improvement and quantify the improvement
- Perform process improvement, thereby reducing the number and cost of production disruptions resulting from materials handling issues
- Improve the morale of all those involved through more predictable execution

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Your Firm to the
Next Level with
StrataFlows?

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