

Vending Times

Official Reprint

quickcharge

MM Hayes Debuts Payroll-Deduction Cashless Vend System

Slated for formal introduction at the National Automatic Merchandising Association's National Expo is a cashless payment system that allows employees to make purchases from vending and manual installations by deducting the price from their paychecks. Called Quickcharge, the system was developed by MM Hayes, and presently is in use by a number of large and small operating companies. It will be demonstrated in booth 1229 at the exposition.

The system consists of readers and network interfaces installed in vending machines and at manual points of sale; the Quickcharge software itself; and a Web-based portal that provides secure access to detailed, accurate transaction records. Quickcharge can work across a wireless network, eliminating the labor and inconvenience of "hard" wiring.

Quickcharge works with a variety of media commonly used for employee identification, time management and/or access control, ranging from barcodes through magnetic-stripe cards to contactless RFID instruments.

In use, the system does not require employees to transfer value to the payment medium. Each transaction is validated by the Quickcharge software resident on the location's server, in real time, and recorded when it has been completed. Hayes explained that Quickcharge integrates seamlessly with existing payroll software, which eliminates the need to process payroll deduction slips manually. The system may be hosted on the location's existing server or on a separate dedicated computer.

Transactions can be reviewed and ed-

ited through the Web-based portal. Reports may be generated as user requirements dictate, for example in the form of detailed "vending charge reports" sent to the operating company for use in reconciling cashless and conventional payments with machine product sales.

Hayes also can provide fully compatible terminals for manual cashier stations, and even a wireless POS terminal.

According to director of vending sales Michael F. Hayes, operators using the system have experienced substantial increases in sales volume; it is convenient, fast and does not require the user to tie up cash in unused value stored on a card. The accuracy and flexibility of the transaction reporting system also speeds and simplifies settlement.

Also attractive to operators is Quickcharge's versatility, Hayes said. Machines can offer it in conjunction with cash, prepaid media or major credit and debit card acceptance, as the operator and the location may determine.

Advantages to operators include easier sales transaction management, reduced cash handling and less theft and fraud – advantages that are maximized in locations equipped for cashless vending only. When cafeterias or other manual retail facilities also are run by the operator, Quickcharge extends those benefits to the sales terminals while offering patrons greater convenience and faster service, because the cashless transactions can be completed much more rapidly than exchanging money with the cashier. Patrons also can review their charges by visiting a secure Web page.



The software is configurable to the specific requirements of the location. Employers can use it to establish user-access profiles, set maximum debit balances, create "discount profiles" as employee incentives, and otherwise tailor the system to support company policies and objectives.

Hayes added that, since Quickcharge is an internal system, no fees are levied on transactions, and unlike credit cards, users are not charged interest.

MM Hayes is headquartered in Albany, NY, and online at mmhayes.com. Information can be had by calling (800) 348-5545.

IT'S ALL IN THE WRIST: The Great Wolf Lodge indoor waterpark in Concord, NC, is the latest location to use Precision Dynamics Corp.'s Smart Band RFID wristband payment and identification system. It's the seventh venue in the Great Wolf Resorts chain to make use of the technology, which patrons can use to pay for goods from on-premise vending machines. Throughout the resort, RFID-enabled point-of-sale workstations enable guests to easily make cashless payments with the wristbands at food and beverage concessions, gift shops and restaurants. Vending and token machines are also RFID-enabled to allow purchases using the wristbands.