



SUMMARY

Customer

National retailer

Challenge

Audit-tracking access control for pharmacy fixtures

Solution

Custom locking solution

Results

- Went from concept to mock-up system in three weeks
- Created flexible solution that could be used at any location
- Used off-the-shelf parts for added flexibility



The retailer called Anixter to work with the fixture manufacturer to develop a cabinet design that included an access control solution that provided audit trail capabilities.

Customer Challenge

A local authority having jurisdiction required one of the nation's largest retailers to install audit-tracking locking cabinets in the pharmacy at one of its busiest urban stores. This local authority wanted the ability to track who opened a particular drawer and took out certain types of pharmaceuticals. The retailer has a fixture manufacturer that it works closely with on all of its pharmacy fixtures and first went to see if the manufacturer had a solution that would meet the authority's requirements; however, the manufacturer said it only made cabinets and couldn't integrate access control.

In the past, the retailer has worked with Anixter for its custom solutions and called on Anixter to work with the fixture manufacturer to develop a cabinet design that included an access control solution that provided audit trail capabilities.

Anixter Solution

In this situation, the retailer wanted an electric strike tied into an access control solution that was already installed at the location. Each drawer in the cabinet needed to have individual access, an electric strike with key override for emergencies and the ability to log the credentials of the person opening the cabinet. Through several conversations, the retailer identified three iterations of the locking solution that would be valuable to itself or any pharmacy.

- The first is a solution that had five strikes, one individual strike for each drawer, that tied into an existing access control system. A reader would be installed on the face of the cabinet and access would be logged by the system each time a credential is presented.

- The second solution was a stand-alone product that doesn't need to tie back to an access control system. In this iteration, a reader, potentially a biometric reader, is included with the electric strikes and a built-in access control solution. The entire system is ready to be plugged in and programmed.
- The third solution would be installed in conjunction with a new access control system for the entire pharmacy. A subpanel would be built into the fixture and would simply be plugged in and connected to a network jack. It would then communicate via the network with the newly installed access control head end. Pharmacy employees could be allowed or denied access to one or all drawers in the cabinet just as though they were doors in the pharmacy.

For this specific requirement, the retailer decided on the first iteration. Anixter worked with the manufacturer to modify the form factor of the pharmacy fixture. The manufacturer used an existing design but added a six-inch void that allowed Anixter to install the electric strikes and access control panel. Anixter also installed a key override system, which was important to the retailer in case of a power outage.

Project Results

In a period of three weeks, Anixter went from an initial conversation to a mocked-up system with five electrical strikes in a pharmacy cabinet. Even though this was for a particular location, Anixter created a flexible solution that could be used at any of the retailer's locations or at any place needing an access control cabinet solution. The retailer is evaluating the new design, which is still in the alpha stage, and anticipates integration into its pharmacies both as a retrofit solution as well in new locations.