

VISCO Importer Software Special Edition for QuickBooks Users

Overall Rating **7.42****Product Name**

VISCO Importer
Software Special Edition
for QuickBooks Users by
VISCO

Reviewed By

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Summary

The VISCO Importer Software Special Edition for QuickBooks Users is a very thorough product that is designed for small to mid-sized importers and distributors. The product manages inventory, sales, purchasing, and logistics and provides a wealth of features that will be extremely beneficial to importers and distributors as well as integrating with QuickBooks financial software.

Strengths

VISCO Importer Software has many strengths but the most obvious strength lies with the wide array of very useful features available in the product. Some of these features include: real-time access to order status, history, and inventory availability, remote access, net profitability for individual shipments, accrual based costing, focus on landed costs, logistics tracking (to track shipments in transit), container management, customs clearance, automated documentation generation, and U.S. Customs documentation preparation.

Limitations

Only inventory purchases and returns are posted into QuickBooks from VISCO so there is no regular recognition of cost of goods sold on the financial records in QuickBooks. It is required that the inventory be manually adjusted in QuickBooks via a journal entry periodically to adjust it to actual and recognize the cost of goods sold. This is a minor step but is one that has to be taken before the income statement within QuickBooks is completely useful.

Wish List

It would be nice to see that changes could be made to the customer and vendor lists in either VISCO or QuickBooks and the changes would be reflected in the other software. Also, the requirement to manually record cost of goods sold can be met relatively easily however it would be more efficient for the users to have the cost of goods sold automatically recorded in QuickBooks since it is already calculated by VISCO. Transactions must also be posted into QuickBooks either individually or in batches which is not difficult, however many QuickBooks users are not used to having to take additional steps to post transactions so it would be nice to have transactions automatically posted into QuickBooks as they are entered into VISCO.

Product Ratings	Rating	Ratings Definitions
<p>Setup and Installation:</p> <p>VISCO typically performs all of the set-up and installation portions of the implementation process. Documentation is available for those that may want to try it themselves however due to the complex features available in the product, it would be recommended that a VISCO representative assist in all set-ups and installations.</p>	7.0	<p>10.0 (Perfect): This exceedingly rare score is reserved for a product that is as perfect as it could be.</p> <p>9.0 to 9.9 (Spectacular): A product that receives a rating in this range succeeds at meeting all of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful drawbacks.</p>
<p>Interface:</p> <p>The interface of the VISCO product is straight-forward. Activities and lists are organized by functional area similar to QuickBooks so it is easy to navigate around in the product. In some areas however, there are so many options and/or steps for completing a transaction that it could be confusing for users (ex-sales orders).</p> <p>The interface with QuickBooks is also very easy. Any additions or changes to the customer and vendor lists are automatically brought into QuickBooks without further steps by the user. It is important to note that changes made to customer and vendor lists in QuickBooks are not reflected in VISCO so the maintenance of all customer and vendor records should be done in VISCO. The user does have to initiate the posting of transactions into QuickBooks but transactions can be posted in a batch or individually so this process is not time-consuming.</p>	7.0	<p>8.0 to 8.9 (Excellent): A product that receives a rating in this range is superior in so many ways that its relatively few drawbacks are not very important.</p> <p>7.0 to 7.9 (Very good): While the strengths of a product scoring in this range certainly outweigh its weaknesses, it has some minor faults that certain users should be aware of.</p> <p>6.0 to 6.9 (Good): This range represents a product that is above average. Its strengths slightly outweigh its weaknesses, making it good for most uses but not a standout.</p>
<p>Features:</p> <p>VISCO is a very feature-rich product. Pre-order processing (inquiries and quotes), order processing (sales and purchase orders, back-to-back processing, and pre-allocation processing), logistics management (individual shipment management, container management, ports, warehouses, and freight carriers), multiple units of measure, and many more features are among those available in VISCO. One of the features that is very useful and very popular is the ability of the product to track individual shipment-specific income and expenses and calculate the net profit for each shipment.</p>	8.5	<p>5.0 to 5.9 (Average): A product that scores in this range is functional but unremarkable.</p> <p>4.0 to 4.9 (Mediocre): Products in this range are below average. They fall in the middle of the pack for most features, but suffer from a few additional major flaws.</p> <p>3.0 to 3.9 (Poor): A customer should probably not consider purchasing a product in this range or lower. There may be one or two specialized circumstances, however, that could justify the purchase of this product for a very low price for a specific demand.</p>
<p>Ease of Use/Service and Support</p> <p>There is a lot of depth to the product so it is very important to receive proper training before using. The product is relatively easy to use but there are more opportunities where support may be needed with VISCO versus a much simpler application due to the depth of the features available. Phone support is available for all registered users during regular business hours (EST) as well as a user's' group. There is an online site that has all of the applications, utilities, software updates, and other files that may be needed (some portions of the site may be restricted to those that have a subscription to the Software Maintenance Plan). Finally, a consultation with a developer is available at either an hourly fee or a fixed project price as is the option to have VISCO modify or fully develop the application to meet your needs.</p>	6.5	<p>2.0 to 2.9 (Terrible): A product that receives a rating in this range does not satisfy any of its intended users' needs and has no meaningful strengths.</p> <p>1.0 to 1.9 (Abysmal): A product in this range should never have been produced. This product has no redeeming qualities and worse, may actually harm the user or the user's productivity.</p>
<p>Data Security / Privacy</p> <p>The privacy policy is stated on VISCO's website (www.ventureinformationsystem.com/secondary/company.htm) and is clear and easy to read. Included in the privacy policy is a section that addresses data security. The company uses secure data networks that are protected by firewalls and password protection systems. Both the</p>	9.0	

security and privacy policies are reviewed periodically and revised when necessary.

Integration with QuickBooks

Customers, vendors, and items are set-up within VISCO and not within QuickBooks. The customer and vendor information is added to the lists within QuickBooks directly after being added or modified in VISCO which eliminates the need for maintaining two lists with the same information in each product. The item list resides solely in VISCO and is not brought into QuickBooks since the inventory is not maintained in QuickBooks.

Invoices and bills (and the related credits) are the only transactions that are brought into QuickBooks. The forms are prepared in VISCO and then can be posted individually or in a batch into QuickBooks (they are posted as invoices, bills, credit memos, and vendor credits as appropriate) which avoids the need for double-entry. Purchase orders, sales orders, and estimates remain only in VISCO and are not posted to QuickBooks so only transactions directly affecting the general ledger are posted to QuickBooks. Inventory adjustments and cost of goods sold are not recorded in QuickBooks so those adjustments must be made manually in QuickBooks.

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