HARFORD**CONTROL**

Better beverage bottling performance

Encirc Ltd.
A case study

encirc

About ENCIRC Ltd.

Encirc is a market leader in glass container design, manufacturing, bottling and logistics solutions for the UK and Irish food and beverage industries. With almost 1,200 employees, it operates from its purpose-built sites in Derrylin, Co Fermanagh, Northern Ireland and Elton, Cheshire. The company produces more than 2.5 billion glass bottles and other containers annually and the on-site bottling division has the capacity to fill up to 300 million litres of bulk shipped beverages every year.

Challenge

With Encirc's ever increasing customer base, one of their prime objectives was to reduce the level of giveaway by automating weight control, thus replacing their outdated weight monitoring system. They also wanted to:

- Reduce or eliminate factory floor paperwork for quality checks
- Obtain real time, integrated management information
- Collect and collate information from legacy systems, such as their Krones LDS system, Mecmesin torque meters etc.
- Perform more efficient trend analyses on information from their laboratory equipment such as Anton Paar Alcoholiser, Hach CO2/O2 Analyser, Foss analytical equipment, etc.
- Improve overall visibility, in real time, ultimately leading to improved efficiency.

Solution

The Harford weight control solution has allowed Encirc to reduce their overfill to hitherto unobtainable levels, reducing giveaway to a minimum, whilst aintaining legal compliance. The introduction of touchscreen HMIs on each production line, together with computer tablets to collect data from other parts of the lines and carry out roving quality audits, has allowed paperwork to be virtually eliminated from the factory floor. Encirc's management team now benefit from real time information on their desktops, tablets, and phones, giving them an instant snapshot of the state of production and immediate access to improvement options to further increase and sustain efficiencies.

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MARTIN GOERNER,
Beverages Laboratory Manager

On the Harford System:
"Since using the weight control side of the system we have noticed a reduction in our losses. Once we get phase 2 implemented, then we will have full traceability so we can prepare customer reports with just a few clicks of a button."

On Problems & Support:
"The (Harford) system is constantly evolving...but following upgrades, we often spot something that would improve the way we work still further and request an additional change. Various issues have come along, usually technical niggles, but all the Harford team have been supportive with these and we have worked together to address them."
"All the Harford team are supportive and most importantly polite and never patronising. We can ask them anything and they never assume any prior knowledge and explain things in a simple, helpful and understanding way. If we can't wrap our heads around it, then they will come to site. There have been many times when this has been greatly appreciated! One of the best things about dealing with Harford is, as well as their team being professional, knowledgeable and helpful, they are all really, really nice people."

On Managing Cultural Change:
"The culture change is a biggie, in general people don't like change. However, Harford are happy to spend plenty of time to explain all the benefits of the system. This is especially important in the initial stages. Once people realise that it's actually reducing their workload, they generally come around to it. The on-site support and training sessions help with this greatly."

HARFORD**CONTROL**

The Harford Control solution is a unique combination of **MES** (Manufacturing Execution System) and **MIS** (Management Information System) elements, designed to improve process control through automation combined with manual control, and, at the same time, supplies accurate **Business Intelligence** in real-time to drive decision-making to improve productivity.

LINE PERFORMANCE - OEE and more

Automated, accurate, real-time information enables each team to make decisions where and when needed - based on facts, not opinions. Gain full visibility into your manufacturing processes and improve line performance in real-time. Unlock hidden capacity, reduce changeover times, improve labour utilisation - all through a single interface.

PROCESS CONTROL - Quality and Yield

It's not hard to do things *Right First Time* when you have a solution that instantly verifies any input and provides corrective action advice whenever a quality check fails, with full traceability. We combine SPC and process capability analysis to ensure that optimum control of any process can be achieved - especially where high levels of variation (and wastage) exist.

LIVE REPORTING - Real-time Analyses and Interpretation Tools

Making the right decisions at the right time hugely impacts performance, quality consistency, compliance, and customer satisfaction. Our reporting tool visualises all relevant KPIs in real-time, displays automatic Short Interval Control screens, sends alerts and provides a huge range of historic reports and analyses - including tools for root cause analysis (e.g. 5Y).

AUTOMATION - Inspection and machine configuration

Automatic configuration of packaging line devices and machinery removes the need for human interaction, and hence minimizes the risk of errors and product recalls. Downtime during changeovers is reduced, yielding higher efficiency. Data captured from in-line inspection devices (scanning, weighing, x-ray, etc) is automatically analysed to drive performance improvement.
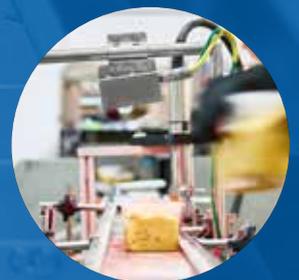
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