HARFORD**CONTROL**

Better brewery performance

SINCE 1698
SHEPHERD
NEAME
BRITAIN'S OLDEST BREWER

About SHEPHERD NEAME Ltd.

Britain's oldest brewer can be found in Faversham, Kent, where beer has been produced for over 850 years. Shepherd Neame has been making beer for more than 500 years, using traditional methods and local Kentish hops. The brewery produces a range of award-winning cask ales and filtered beers. Production is around 210,000 brewers' barrels (35 million litres) a year. The company has a strong pub chain in the South East UK and exports to more than 35 countries including Sweden, Italy, Brazil and Canada.

Challenge

With paper recording of efficiencies and line performance restricting the identification of losses, the main area of focus was to implement a state-of-the-art line performance monitoring solution. Yield improvements and paperless quality management were viewed as great aids in wastage reduction and quality consistency improvements. Having experienced the capabilities of the Harford system during a reference visit to Beam Suntory, the following aims for a complete implementation were agreed upon:

- Improvement of quality consistency
- Minimisation of paper recording
- Use of Statistical Process Control to reduce materials wastage
- Visual display of real-time performance indicators, including issues and improvement opportunities
- Increased efficiency through better data accuracy and root cause analysis

Solution

Following the demonstration of what can be achieved by integrating several systems into a single solution, Harford was rolled out across Shepherd Neame's bottling line. Now, performance data is captured from all production lines, including the keg and cask lines. Links to existing balances allow Harford to provide direct feedback to control the filling process by giving automated adjustment advice, based on Statistical Process Control, when necessary.

In addition, all quality checks are recorded in a paperless way, enabling operators and shift managers to work in a completely paperless production environment – whilst management benefits from real-time information about schedule adherence, production performance, quality issues, efficiency and much more. Live Short Interval Control screens above the production lines keep all operational and managerial personnel informed about the status of production KPIs and improvement opportunities.

TOP 3 BUSINESS BENEFITS

1. Improved yield through reduction of giveaway by 0.5%
2. Instant availability of accurate line efficiency data to drive continuous improvement
3. Increase of OEE by 15%

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Using our Harford system to inform and focus our improvement activities, we have improved the plant output by 12.5% in the last six months with no capex requirements beyond the cost of the Harford system itself. We are also saving £10,000 p.a. simply with better fill height control, based on the information and guidance provided by the Harford SPC module.

Rupert Hodgkins, Bottling Hall Manager

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.
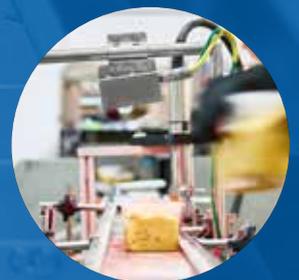
LIVE REPORTING - Real-time Analyses and Interpretation Tools

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.

GET IN TOUCH

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