



**5 KEY REASONS TO USE QUALITY CONTROL
SOFTWARE IN THE FOOD & BEVERAGE INDUSTRY**

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If you're supplying food products – especially in raw or unprocessed form – you can't afford to take risks. Government regulations on safety and hygiene are stricter than ever and the penalties for non-compliance (or worse, causing a health scare) are severe. That's why quality control, as part of an integrated ERP system, is essential today. A properly implemented quality management system (QMS) delivers the following benefits:

1 TRACKING (TESTING)

Many food products, if delivered to customers in their raw state, need to be tested in quarantine conditions to determine that they're free of any contamination. Nuts are a case in point; stringent batch tests are required before the product can be shipped. The risk of human error must be minimised, if not eliminated altogether.

ACTION ITEMS:

Examine your testing procedures carefully to determine whether they're up to scratch. ISO 22000 is your benchmark here [<http://www.iso.org/iso/home/standards/management-standards/iso22000.htm>].

THE ROLE OF ERP:

Your QMS should enable you to configure automated test processes to suit your requirements (categories, types of tests per category, etc).

2 COMPLIANCE

Risk management imperatives must be built in to your QMS, so that when inspection time comes around, you can document your procedures and results. It must be flexible enough to ensure that the appropriate action is taken for each situation. The results should be accessible to everyone along the control chain and because they're a key performance indicator, they should be an integral part of your company's operational intelligence (OI).

ACTION ITEMS:

You need to design a Risk Model that fits your business needs; over-reaction to what is actually a minor problem can mean unnecessary stress and labour. Ensure that every situation has an appropriate response.

THE ROLE OF ERP:

When a situation arises, your QMS should automatically tell you what needs to be done and who needs to do it.

3 TRACEABILITY

Manufacturing and distribution processes are varied and often complicated; ingredients must be managed and measured according to each batch requirement, and batches themselves must be measured according to customer orders. Every batch must also be correctly dated for shelf life, and the customer must be able to see all this information at a glance. The manufacturer, therefore, needs to track their products throughout their lifecycle. Live data is vital.

ACTION ITEMS:

Test to determine whether your products are fully tracked and documented from the start of the manufacturing process until they're delivered to the customer.

THE ROLE OF ERP:

The QMS must be configured to deliver precise information to all testing personnel right along the chain.

4 APPROVALS

There is no room for human error when public health is at stake. At each stage of the manufacturing process, there should be checks that ensure the product is not passed to the next stage until particular processes are complete.

ACTION ITEMS:

Look at your processes in detail: what criteria must be applied for approval, and whose responsibility is it to ensure they're complied with?

THE ROLE OF ERP:

The QMS must include an Approvals & Alerts function that enables you to set rules at every stage, so that staff cannot approve an action until compliance is determined.

5 OVERVIEW – INCREASED VISIBILITY

With QMS fully integrated into your ERP system, you'll not only have better visibility of your production chain; you'll be working more efficiently as well. For instance, you'll be able to adjust your priorities to take seasonal factors into account, when customer demands are likely to change and alternative suppliers may be required. You should be able to automate variances in your processes to accommodate these changes, so you're never low on stock or unable to fill spot orders. You'll also have superior operational intelligence (OI) for making strategic decisions about meeting future demands.

ACTION ITEMS:

Take a long, hard look at your current business system and ask yourself whether it's capable of meeting your quality control needs now and in the future.

THE ROLE OF ERP:

A business system must be flexible enough to be configured for your current requirements and to adapt for changing competitive market pressures. A fully integrated ERP system will incorporate quality control with all your other business functions, ensuring a seamless flow of information that not only ensures total compliance, but makes you more efficient and profitable.

FURTHER READING:

Learn more about how Greentree ERP can seamlessly manage your quality control [<http://www.greentree.com/quality-control-software>].

For a first-hand demonstration of how to handle your food safety and quality control issues, contact Endeavour Solutions.

SOURCES:

http://www.foodprocessing.com/assets/wp_downloads/pdf/Essential_Guide_to_Food.pdf
http://www.bitpipe.com/detail/RES/1423253963_384.html
 (downloadable whitepaper)

<http://www.fooddive.com/news/why-operational-excellence-will-matter-to-the-food-and-beverage-industry/411381>

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WHAT WE DO

At Endeavour, we specialise in delivering tailored, effective software solutions to help your business grow. Services include the following:

- Introductory Consultation and Demonstrations
- Project Planning & Scoping
- Project Work & Customisations
- Implementations
- Training
- Networking
- Maintenance & Upgrades

Here's why our customers trust us:

Timely – speedy

implementation of software solutions

ROI – we focus on solutions that optimise growth and profitability

Understanding your needs – solutions tailored to your business

Savings – our approach eliminates waste and supports your cost goals

Team – with 30 years' experience, our team builds strong relationships

Empowering – we give you the tools to run your business effectively

Delivering value – we make a quantifiable difference to your business

Streamline operations, make better business decisions and set yourself apart from the competition with Endeavour's services using Greentree and Qlik solutions.

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