

Large Carrot Manufacturer Implements the TEMPO[®] Solution and a Workflow Audit to Improve Laboratory Productivity

Case Study



Large Carrot Manufacturer Implements the TEMPO® Solution and a Workflow Audit to Improve Laboratory Productivity



Context

- A California-based firm that is one of the world's largest carrot producers. In mid-2008, the carrot producer's management team faced the challenge of streamlining routine microbiology testing. The laboratory performed multiple dilutions using Petrifilm™ and manually entering sample date pre- and post-analysis.

Objectives & Action

- Evaluate automated methods that would enable the lab to (a) increase efficiencies and (b) minimize non-value-added activity related to counting bacterial colonies on Petrifilm™.

After meeting with representatives from bioMérieux in June of 2008, the carrot producer's management team elected to adopt the TEMPO® solution for the following routine parameters: Total Aerobic Count. In late 2010, the firm's managers engaged in a bioMérieux-sponsored workflow audit of the microbiology laboratory. The purpose for the audit was to explore areas for potential improvement in overall laboratory productivity.

Key Results

- After a three-month implementation period in 2008, the carrot producer's laboratory staff converted an average 2,600 tests per month to the TEMPO® solution. As a result of implementing the automated TEMPO® solution, the laboratory team was able to (a) eliminate three dilution levels on Petrifilm™ and (b) minimize the amount of manual labeling. Additionally, by following recommendations stemming from the 2010 workflow audit, site management was able to (a) reconfigure the laboratory design, (b) streamline sample flow, and (c) improve laboratory morale. Overall testing output more than doubled between 2008 and 2010 as a result of implementing the TEMPO® solution.

“Following our workflow audit, we began to use the reading capabilities of the bar-coding associated with the TEMPO® system, which allowed us to eliminate transcription errors. We then went a step further and now incorporate bar-coding into all steps of the sample testing process - from the time products come in from the fields to the production area and eventually through analysis. We now have increased traceability not only in the lab with the TEMPO®, but also throughout the entire company.” –Customer Laboratory Manager

