



IMPACTxp - brewing a refreshing solution

Helping your maintenance run smoothly

Background

Thwaites is one of few traditional brewers remaining, priding itself on its continued use of hop leaf in the production process in order to maintain best quality in all its beers.

Thwaites, a successful UK based company, is keen to ensure they make sound commercial decisions - "Thwaites takes this approach to everything we purchase, and that sentiment underlies our choice of IMPACTxp" said the Assistant Engineering Manager at Thwaites Brewery.

Thwaites are firmly of the belief that computerized maintenance management is essential in a comprehensive engineering department or a complex site. The business required a CMMS solution that would allow efficient operations and prevent disruptions in workflow.

Requirement

The investigation into the purchase of a CMMS solution was the result of the ever increasing burden of meeting UK and EEC legislation - food hygiene regulations, pressure system legislation, COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) and water regulations. In addition, the company was seeking to achieve ISO9002 status for the entire production operation. The role of the maintenance engineer is increasingly governed by legal requirements and legislation. Preparation of schedules and work orders was being carried out manually, which is very labor intensive - the IMPACTxp solution would improve this by allowing schedules to be prepared and maintenance work orders be automatically generated.

With the workload they had, a solution was required to improve efficiency. The Engineering Department then made the

decision to install the IMPACTxp system. The savings forecast in the inventory/stores department alone by using IMPACTxp are - financial savings, better stock control and saved time locating parts. These alone will easily pay for the system, without including any savings in planned maintenance, budget control, purchasing, or even the investment in supporting the plant facility and equipment.

The Assistant Engineering Manager for Thwaites stated that, "Although the recent proliferation of legislation was the prompt for purchasing IMPACTxp, its principle role in the department is to protect the company's investment in plant equipment by effective planned maintenance in order to lessen depreciation, to minimize stoppages, to manage spares and for budgeting control. Working two shifts a day, five days a week, one of the biggest problems is plant availability."





Solution

Thwaites have been using IMPACTxp since 1994 and have been delighted with the solutions it has delivered. The area where IMPACTxp has most revolutionized operations is the department's work with respect to inventory/spares control. Location of parts and selection was much improved and removed the usual scramble to find parts - a scenario familiar to many companies. IMPACTxp indicates which bin a specific part is in, and its inventory number so that the tradesman knows exactly where it is located. Perhaps more importantly, the records are accurate and cannot be lost. "In the long term, it is possible to justify IMPACTxp for finding parts alone".

Thwaites management said, "IMPACTxp is also easy to use - essential because the department does not have dedicated computer staff to operate a computer; in event of a breakdown where time is crucial we need a system which is simple and quick to get into, and which reacts quickly. A complex package can be confusing and then just adds to the time taken".

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Our plant is frequently being modified and adapted to suit customer requirements and I have to manage the work in very tight time-scales. IMPACTxp is an invaluable tool.

Assistant Engineering Manager, Thwaites

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Using the plant history data, IMPACTxp allowed equipment to be maintained as necessary. In addition, equipment/plant availability can be scheduled with production to be advantageous to everyone concerned. The inventory held on IMPACTxp indicates that the right parts are in stock, and where they are located.

The system is also used to manage the budget. IMPACTxp automatically gives a discreet order number and puts cost codes and values on to each item, thus updating the budget files. Reports can then be generated to show how much has been spent and where it has been spent.

Results

In just a short time, Thwaites were able to establish new stock levels which resulted in savings being generated by reducing the amount of stock carried. IMPACTxp automatically compares the parts list designated for a particular maintenance schedule with the stock items and once it has located all the items from the part/kit list, it will release the planned maintenance schedule, which is pointless if the parts are not available. This is very difficult to achieve manually with a busy stores department and limited resources.

IMPACTxp delivered "an all round, good quality, user friendly package" and while price was important to Thwaites, they did not consider the less expensive packages - "that end of the market will not give us a comprehensive system which we can build on. Installing a computerized maintenance management system is a long term commitment to protect a plant which will be running in thirty years, so the system must also be current then" said the Assistant Engineering Manager.

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