

The importance of technology in hygiene management systems

Legislation and codes of practice dictate that businesses must provide the cleaning instructions for all equipment and surfaces on site, including a system of control to show cleaning has been carried out according to the correct method.

This led the Kersia Group to develop a hygiene management system that can be used for open plant cleaning and for Cleaning in Place (CIP). It has changed the way many of their customers operate and had led to a more robust system of control and reporting.

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The increased use of technology is key for the Kersia Gateway and Gateway AC, Hygiene Management System. The development of both programmes and an accompanying App has allowed food processing businesses to easily adapt their systems to this new way of working.

Gateway provides a web-based Cleaning Instruction Card (CIC) creation and maintenance system that allows both the Kersia team and customers quick access for easy creation and amending of the cleaning instruction card system.

It provides all cleaning instructions required to allow a business to successfully manage their hygiene operation and allows the user to view live documentation including Safety Data Sheets, Product Information Sheets, Disinfectant Test Data, Equipment Data Sheets, Technical Guides and Test Kit Methods.

Authorisation levels

Gateway consists of two parts: Head Quarters (HQ) and Client. The HQ module is where each individual site is created and where basic site and area information together with authorised users are activated. In addition, different authorisation levels are set up on the system for the client's users.

The Client module is where the detailed information is entered creating each specific CIC. The Client module is used by hygiene



technologists to create the customer CICs. If the customer chooses to manage their own system they take control enabling an authorised site user to modify, add and delete CICs.

Gateway's main function is the administration of CICs, whereas Gateway AC allows customers to expand into the effective control of other aspects of their Hygiene Management System (HMS).

The Planner module includes a calendar that provides the user with the ability to easily plan cleaning tasks throughout the year.

Daily cleaning tasks are automatically planned by Gateway AC and non-daily cleaning tasks can be dropped anywhere on the calendar and cascaded at the correct interval for the next 12 months.

The Planner also allows cleaning tasks to be moved if the need arises, without impacting on future planned cleans.

The Task Control module allows the generation of accurate paperwork for signing off the planned cleans by the cleaning operative and the inspector.

Alternatively, Gateway AC users also have the option of being able to digitally record who completed the cleaning and inspection of items. If an item does not meet the standards required, then a non-conformance

can be raised, record why it failed and a reclean ordered. Gateway AC also allows the recording of why a cleaning task was not completed.

Managing reporting

To ensure that all the collated information can be effectively interrogated and used to analyse the performance of a site's hygiene function, each module is linked to the Management Reporting on Gateway AC.

This module can report on areas such as unplanned cleaning tasks, successful cleans, why cleans have been moved, who completes most successful cleaning tasks, etc.

The Gateway AC tablet App allows cleaning tasks to be downloaded to one or several tablets, which can then be used to capture the sign off of these tasks 'live' on the factory floor. Users of the App can digitally sign off cleaning tasks as completed and checked, as well as take photos to prove something was cleaned on a date or for non-conformance purposes.

Once all the data has been captured on the factory floor and synchronised with Gateway AC it can be easily searched for and presented in reports. ■