

"I would recommend this without hesitation to anyone wanting to move their company into the 21st century....."

Alistair Baker, QA Manager,
WAMMCO International on InformationLeader

Interview with

Alistair Baker

QA Manager

WAMMCO International

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What was the situation?

The Australian red meat industry is one of the most highly regulated in the country. An outcome of this regulation is the large amount of paperwork generated in order to comply with the numerous audits carried out by the regulatory authorities. Utilising a paper based system this compliance could take up the time of at least one full time QA Manager within a plant the size of WAMMCO International.

Similarly the generation of a large amount of paperwork was both cumbersome when looking to retrieve specific information related to one event and a financial cost to the business with regards to the purchase of the amount paper required.

In 2004 InformationLeader was introduced at WAMMCO at to provide an electronic system to manage the Quality Assurance process of the site. Information recorded at the processing line would now be electronically recorded via the use of web tablets, sent to a central point, being the QA office, and information there would be managed to provide both an instantaneous snap shot of any issues that were being encountered on the processing floor and also to provide management with an accurate reporting tool.

Why is this a significant change?

"InformationLeader has cut down our paperwork by 75%. Instead of taking a full day to go through the day's checks we are now only taking half an hour", Alistair Baker said.

The application has also provided the site with an immediate benefit in auditing processes.

"All information entered into the QA system is done in real time and date stamped. It is also available at the touch of a fingertip - no more scrabbling through filing cabinets" Mr Baker said.

WAMMCO has also looked to *InformationLeader* as providing a central repository for information linked to on-site training. The forms within the program can be linked to work instructions and standard operating instructions with video and pictures.

"Our most non computer literate person on site has become the best person in terms of operating the application" said Alistair Baker.

What does the future now look like?

WAMMCO have seen the capability of the InformationLeader application and now are developing 21st century options for the training and development of operational staff, and the maintenance of their HACCP program. To come is the incorporation of their site's environmental monitoring.

InformationLeader has significantly cut down both time and resources required to conduct the QA function at WAMMCO allowing dedicated staff to reinvest in the personnel on the operational floor. This in turn offers the WAMMCO site a benefit from reduced administrative costs and increased product and process knowledge from operational team members.