FACTORY QUALITY—REAL-TIME QUALITY CONTROL

Factory Quality offers paperless compliance and tracking of all quality control processes throughout the plant. By automating quality audits in realtime, manufacturers improve conformance to standard operating procedures (SOPs), quality assurance initiatives and industry regulatory standards while minimizing administration costs.

With Factory Quality, operators perform quality checks as part of their real-time day to day routine and whenever exception conditions are encountered—without paperwork, using simple touch screen technology.

Through its pre-configured real-time alerts and workflow capabilities, shop floor teams are able to respond immediately to ongoing challenges, enabling manufacturers to:

- Reduce product giveaway
- Identify & improve quality control bottlenecks
- Reduce quarantined inventory
- Improve positive release cycles
- Provide end-to-end SKU production traceability

WASTE REDUCTION & OEE IMPROVEMENT

Factory Quality significantly contributes to improving SKU yield in two distinct ways.

Features

Quality Checks by SKU, Line and Assets:

- Start-Up
- Area Functional Checks
- Re-Works
- Re-Tests
- Laboratory Tests
- End of Line Compliance
- End of Run
- End of Shift

Real Time Quality Management:

- Real Time alerting to checks
- SKU audit ability
- Exception Reporting
- Administration light

Quality Analysis:

- Non Conformance Analysis
- Corrective Actions
- Root Causes
- Discrepant Material Report
- Cost of Quality

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First, the Quality module delivers real-time intelligence on the underlying causes of start up, rework and in-process scrap. Based upon automated data captured from the plant during a run, and through reject points and other devices, such as check weighers, pre-configured analytical tools provide operators with a correlation of performance variables at the time of encountered losses. For example, the Quality module may display a correlation between product quality and a specific piece of equipment’s temperature and pressure levels, thus enabling operators to quickly target and adjust specific equipment settings.

Second, the built-in process workflows and checks ensure that teams are fully compliant with the best working practices suited to the individual lines or SKUs. Armed with real-time quality information, operators are able to make immediate adjustments relating to waste and yield issues, while ensuring full audit conformance. Vital pass/fail signoffs for products and assets are available for rapid supervisory completion. By providing immediate notification of quality threshold violations, as well as immediate end of run and shift reports, shop floor teams can take decisive corrective actions and implement improvements, prior to incurring further losses.

Benefits
- Waste Reduction & OEE Improvement
- Improved audit compliance
- 100% Conformance to quality assurance processes
- Reduced quality control bottlenecks
- Reduced quarantine inventory
- Improved positive-release cycles
- Reduced product giveaways
- Transparency on yield and waste losses
- End-to-end SKU track & trace visibility

Factory is the first packaged manufacturing execution system that transforms manufacturing performance by empowering your people to take immediate action. By standardizing the best practices of lean manufacturing, OEE and continuous improvement, Factory closes the loop between potential and actual improvements.

**END-TO-END QUALITY ASSURANCE CONFORMANCE**

Factory Quality directs and tracks all product checks automatically throughout the production process delivering full accountability for every link in the factory floor supply chain. This means faster, more accurate customer audits and a reduced administration cost.

SKU, line and plant quality checks, including specifications, exception values and instructions, are defined in Factory Quality for all critical points. Typical check points can include the Receiving Area (e.g. raw goods and material inspections), Prep Area (e.g. de-Box and weigh activities), Process Lines (such as boiler and mixer measurements, samples, etc..), Fill and Pack Lines (such as reject, rework and retest activities) through to the Warehouse (such as finished goods receipt).
Factory Quality includes pre-defined quality checks at start-up, end of run and end of shift, in addition to scheduling periodic quality checks during specified production cell functions, such as product sample inspections, variable measurement recordings and more. Through the quality dashboard, operators are notified of these quality checks, prompted for assets and root causes from a set of predefined lists and critical measurements. Under certain conditions, the operator is presented a given set of instructions, based upon their data entries. By requiring operators’ acknowledgment, Factory Quality ensures operator conformance.

REAL-TIME QUALITY DIAGNOSTICS

Factory Quality analyzes key shop floor data automatically and provides quality levels on a real-time basis. It allows operators and management to work on an exception-driven basis—automatically alerting users to problems when they arise. Operators are notified in real-time, via email and onscreen, of alert conditions triggered by shop floor automation and the module’s SPC (Statistical Process Control) functions. Factory Quality can be configured with mapped assets to causes, which enables quality operators to capture root causes, enter key data points and be presented with relevant instructional and graphical guidance of any required work, all in real-time. By marking quality checks as repaired, closed, false positive, etc., Factory Quality provides analytic support for process yield, as well as the effectiveness of the QA inspection process.

STATISTICAL PROCESS CONTROL (SPC)

Factory Quality employs a comprehensive SPC engine enabling the processing of measurement and attribute data acquired throughout the plant through SPC methods. All captured shop floor and operator entered quality data, including electronic signatures, are available for quality analysis and audit purposes. Factory Quality can then trigger operator alerts, via email and dashboard alert messages, based upon SPC trends. These alert messages can include related quality, performance, traceability and job data.

QUALITY ANALYSIS

From the quality dashboard, users have real-time visibility to overall equipment effectiveness (OEE) and yield rates that are calculated from quality rates captured during scrap, rework, and start-up quality checks. Users can drill down into logged quality data, as well as analyze product and asset trends. Pre-defined quality reports can be automatically generated at specified production stages, including end-of-run and end-of-shift.

Aptean is a leading provider of industry-focused mission critical enterprise software solutions. We build and acquire solutions to support the evolving operational needs of our customers. Our solutions help nearly 5,000 organizations stay at the forefront of their industries by enabling them to operate more efficiently, thereby ensuring higher customer satisfaction.

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