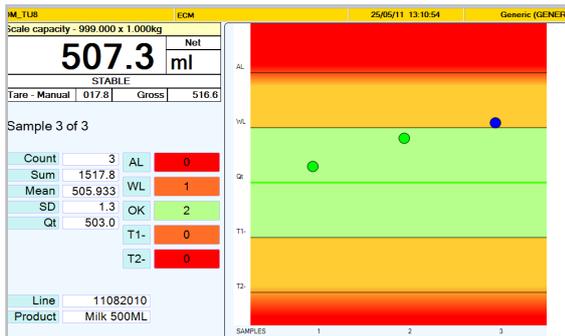




'e' Weighing



Factfile: Trac-IT 'e' Weighing Control Module

Manufacturers of pre-packaged goods operate in a highly competitive and dynamic environment: one where customer and legislative demands present ever-increasing pressures on bottom line profitability. Over-filling/over-packing is a major concern, rapidly eating into profits unless corrective action is taken swiftly and decisively.

Effective 'e' weighing control leads directly to:

- Reduced over-fill/over-pack
- De-skilling of QA compliance tasking
- Reduced waste
- Improved profits

The Marco 'e' Weighing Control Module (ECM) offers unique and comprehensive 'e' weighing management control. It has been developed to reduce the cost implications of over-filling and over-packing, whilst in parallel de-skilling the QA aspect of compliance, thereby ensuring manufacturers of pre-packaged goods consistently meet relevant legislation based around the Three Packers' Rules.

Marco's module can be used for any type of pre-packaged goods sold with the familiar 'e' mark;

*WELMEC is the European Cooperation in Legal Metrology its principal aim is to establish a harmonised and consistent approach to European legal metrology. Currently 37 countries are represented on the WELMEC Committee.

ranging from manually packed produce through to high speed products such as cans, bottles and cartons. The system, which incorporates high precision weighing scales, is designed to be used off line. A unique feature of ECM is its email alert function, which can be set up to warn operational managers when any pack weight deviations go outside preset tolerances. These warning and action alerts are associated directly with the filling process capability (Cp index), enabling operators to achieve optimum yield by taking corrective action swiftly and efficiently.

The Marco ECM provides:

- Significant reductions in over-fill/over-pack
- Improved compliance with Three Packers' Rules
- Improved line control – minimising rejects
- Unambiguous prompts to advise when to make line adjustments or 'leave the process alone'
- Fully audited 'corrective action' procedures in line with the latest WELMEC* guidelines.
- Warning and Action alerts associated directly with the filling process capability (Cp index)

The procedure to decide on the most suitable sample size and frequency of checking is a subjective one and can result in packing to a much higher target weight than that declared on the product label. The ECM software takes care of this subjectivity and enables QA staff to ensure that the most suitable sampling regime is set to minimise over pack/overflow.

The result of every sample check is presented in an easy-to-understand format and in addition to providing essential compliance data, the system can be configured to provide unambiguous prompts that allow management to fine tune packing line parameters to optimise target weights within 'e' weighing tolerances.



Average Weight Module

Return on Investment:

In one application, our profitability experts discovered that a soft drinks company was losing around £15K a week through unnecessarily high over-fill.

- This calculation was based on average overfill levels of 25ml for bottles ranging from 500ml to 2 litre.
- This giveaway can be reliably reduced to 5ml with the Marco ECM installed offline and enables the line operator to make real time process adjustments with confidence.
- This gives estimated weekly savings of £10,000 or £500,000 per annum

Checks:

Internationally accepted packaging regulations focus on ensuring packages, on average, contain at least the stipulated weight printed on the package. (Within Europe this is the 'e' weight). Over-weight is acceptable within the regulations, but clearly this affects companies' profits in terms of lost/wasted product and increased transport charges. Therefore packers need to ensure their packaging system complies with the Packers' Rules, whilst keeping giveaway to a minimum.



This means that they should establish a system that:

- Controls the production process
- Sets up effective sampling and checking plans
- Uses appropriate equipment for checking
- Trains staff
- Keeps appropriate records

Clearly any system which consistently ensures pack weights are optimised with minimum giveaway, brings significant benefits to packers

Contact us for details on our other Profitability Modules:

- Recipe Formulation Module**
- Yield Control Module**
- Waste Management Module**
- Line Control Module**



United Kingdom

Marco - Enterprise Way - Edenbridge - Kent - TN8 6HF
Telephone - +44 (0) 1732 782380
E-mail: info@marco.co.uk - Website: www.marco.co.uk



Netherlands

Marco - Sprendlingenpark 23 - 5061 JT Oisterwijk
Telephone: +31 (0) 13 522 0435
E-mail: info@marco.co.uk- Website: www.marco.co.uk/nl



THE QUEEN'S AWARDS
FOR ENTERPRISE:
INTERNATIONAL TRADE
2014

MARCO
Productivity Improvement Experts