



CASE STUDY

Emma® EMP Application Streamlines Environmental Monitoring at CTI Foods

CTI Foods specializes in manufacturing custom proteins, soups, sauces, and other food for retail and restaurant customers. Based in Southlake, Texas, the company operates five U.S. production plants that conduct several hundred environmental swabs a day. Prior to using FSNS' environmental mapping and monitoring application (emma®), CTI Foods tracked data with spreadsheets, which lacked the functionality required for efficient environmental monitoring and audit readiness.

"Tracking and trending data was the roughest," said Travis Winkleman, Lab Coordinator at CTI Foods' Owingsville, Ky., facility. "We used an Excel sheet set up like a LIMS system, but it couldn't match emma's functionality. Auditors need specific data, and pulling it from spreadsheets is very time-consuming."

CTI Foods started using emma® around 2020, which was a game-changer. "Emma randomizes and automates swabbing locations, which is very good for auditors to see. It's not a person picking them; it's computer-generated," Winkleman explained. This feature enhanced the credibility of their swabbing plan during customer and regulatory audits.

Winkleman creates PowerPoint presentations with pictures, explanations, and CAPA plans, all saved within emma® for easy retrieval. "If I'm sitting with an auditor, I can pull that PPT up without digging through spreadsheets. All auditors I've talked to are very satisfied with how we do this," he added. Emma's capabilities also help secure new clients by demonstrating robust environmental data handling.

"Emma saves me 2-3 hours per day by labeling swabs and providing map visualizations. It shows where sites are located and how well you're challenging a room from an environmental perspective," Winkleman noted. The map visualizations help pinpoint positives and identify areas that might need additional attention.

"For any company looking for a robust environmental monitoring solution, emma is a very good program," Winkleman said.

CHALLENGE

Maintain strict environmental controls across five production plants, managing multiple product lines and hundreds of environmental swabs.

DIFFICULTIES

Manage EMP data efficiently, satisfy auditor requirements, and randomize swabbing sites.

SOLUTION

Emma® application eliminates cumbersome spreadsheets, increases data integrity to meet auditor expectations, and provides data visualization to improve EMP effectiveness.



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