Is your Quality Management System Ready for Digital Transformation?

Written by Frances Donnelly, C.Q.P.A., Director of Product Development, Horizons International

If you are experiencing these frustrations, then digitally transforming your quality management processes should be in your future.

- Tired trying to generate your quality control data for Certificates of Analysis and Conformance with off line systems and constantly worrying if the archived documents are recoverable?

- Fed up searching through network folders for the right excel spreadsheet to use to generate a certificate?

- Frustrated with the user restrictions around data entry in Excel holding up your processes?

- Spending too much time double checking the content on a certificate so that there is no reason for your customer to reject shipments?

- Worried that lack of audit trails with your current systems will affect your regulatory status?

These are just a few of the challenges we have helped our customer's overcome with Quality Essentials Suite.

Supporting Certificates of Analysis and Certificates of Conformance is a real headache for many manufacturers. These certificates have to be available to support shipments but they are not generated out of the mainstream ERP data. Creating, distributing and archiving these documents, because of their regulatory nature, constitutes a critical subsystem and often companies are forced to rely on Word, Excel or some proprietary tool that no one knows how to update. It can be a real nightmare of risk.

Over the last twenty years advances in technology mean that we can supply end to end quality management solutions that truly meet the needs of the quality department and also the needs of departments like shipping and sales. More importantly Horizons can deliver our solution affordably because we don't price our products based on either named or concurrent users.

Legacy solution, whether proprietary development or off the shelf, that can handle the complexity and variation of inputs and outputs needed for quality management to generate these certificates have been expensive. These solutions, whether on premise or web based, are sold on a per user license basis. This means that when trying to deploy the solution for best fit with business process flows the cost escalates rapidly in order to obtain sufficient licenses for efficient operations. If the choice is made to limit investment then the offset is less efficiency and new bottlenecks are often discovered.

These other products often bring unnecessary overhead to the process too. They want users to buy a range of individual modules and before they know it buyers are looking at very large price tags for what is a simple application. With Quality Essentials Suite, we keep it simple with just two modules, Data Management and Improvement Management.

Companies looking to get out from under this combination of risk and expense burden while still meeting response and budget goals can do so with the Quality Essential Suite from Horizons International.

What makes our solution different?

We are often asked what makes our solution different from the legacy products in the marketplace. Here are a few key differentiators:

Affordability with Unlimited User Access

Our solution is sold per module based on number of companies in the installation configuration and specifically allows for unlimited user access to the functionality, governed by user security rules of course. The goal is to ensure that end users can build their business process flow in a manner that is most efficient for them and that is not constrained by user license cost. We know it is important to have everyone be involved in the goal of quality. With unlimited user access we make sure that is possible.

Runs on Multiple Devices

Managing and benefiting from your quality control data should, today, be easier and more affordable than it has been in the last 20 years. The cost of hardware and software has continued to decrease and the improvements in speed and responsiveness, whether over the web or on a local network, has also been occurring. Development tools allow the creation of user interfaces that can run on a range of devices which means the quality department can put data collection tasks where they are most efficient. It also means that dashboards for control charting and analysis can be rolled out easily to every relevant member of staff without concern for cost.

Supports Data Collection, Analysis, Reporting and Audit Trails

The functionality in the Data Management module is targeted to the core tasks for quality management of data collection, data analysis, reporting and audit trails. When all those functions are in one shared solution risk of errors is reduced and tasking around certificates of analysis and conformance is highly efficient.

Customize Forms and Lookups

We also provide a range of customization tools. Your team can decide what content is necessary and remove unneeded entry points or change the layout of the forms to meet your efficiency goals.

Built-in Formulations Just Like Excel

Our data collection interface also provides access to a number of built in calculation tools. Some of these tools are simple functions like averages, but more sophisticated formulas, such as those often created in excel can be executed during the data collection tasks.

Report Layouts and Filters for COA

A specific set of tools and functions are available to support Certificates of Analysis and Conformance. End users can create an unlimited library of reusable report layouts so that the correct layout for customer data is easily available. We also automate data filtering so each customer gets exactly the information they require. All certificates once generated can be distributed electronically via email if desired.

Generate a COA in 4 Mouse Clicks

When data setups are complete it is possible to create a COA or COC in as few as 4 mouse clicks. Data auto populates forms reducing the need for data entry and improving accuracy. Reports and their related data are automatically archived and easy to retrieve. Integration with your outlook client enables automatically sending electronic versions of the certificates to your customers.

If you are ready to leave your frustrations behind give us a call (866) 949 9504 or email sales@qualityessentialssuite.com we'd love to give you a demo of our solution. GP

Photo by Alubaslish/iStock/Getty Images Plus.