



Insight Via™ Helps Agribusiness Streamline and Enhance Safety Programs

Vita Plus, a quality daily and livestock feed producer in Wisconsin, has humble beginnings: Within a decade of its launch more than 70 years ago, a feed manufacturing tower was built (still in use today), which represented its commitment to supplying livestock feed for the long haul. Later the same year, the company made another significant step forward with the hiring of a full-time staff nutritionist.

Early on, the company focused primarily on the swine and poultry markets before later expanding into dairy, swine, beef, and forages, as well as grain banking and merchandizing services. The company currently serves customers across the Midwest and has a workforce of about 400 employees.

While consistent growth was good for the bottom line, necessitating expansion and additional locations, establishing new facilities and increasing workforce also presented challenges for safety. With more employees and locations came more risk of incident and injury, along with additional reporting, recordkeeping and regulatory requirements. So, Vita Plus turned to DEKRA for help.

Insight Via™ Helps Track Company's Safety Record With Greater Efficiency

Safety Director Scott Hall had contacted DEKRA for assistance with streamlining recordkeeping, documenting incidents more effectively and improving safety-related training programs. He felt DEKRA's Insight Via™ Safety Management System (SMS), was a good foundation, but wanted to build on it by using more of the system's features and capabilities.

"The safety program was pretty much de-centralized at the time," Hall said. "Since employee safety stands at the top of our list of values, I wanted to bring everybody to a more centralized focus by establishing a recordkeeping and reporting system that would allow us to track and record incidents more efficiently and allow all location managers easy access.

To accomplish that goal, all company information needed to be in a single location and easily accessible. "That's exactly what Insight Via™ allows us to do," he said.

Insight Via™ enables users to record a vast amount of information from several different sources — all stored in one place. Staff can then translate the information into easy-to-read reports that safety personnel can effectively analyze where they need to allocate additional resources. There's no software or subsequent updates to install on multiple computers and no maintenance as updates are reflected immediately once activated.

What makes Insight Via™ so effective is its ability to bring information together in one convenient, accessible and empowering database. Insight Via™ provides control, consistency and continuity for documenting safety processes, a formula proven to successfully lower incidents and severity of job-related exposures and injuries.

Centralizing Safety Data Eliminates Paperwork, Saves Time

Hall readily admits the process of centralizing information and streamlining incident reporting among all the company's locations has been a difficult journey. But despite temporary periods of impatience, he is encouraged by the progress. "It is a gradual, day-by-day process," he said.

"It takes patience, perseverance, encouragement and sometimes a bit of hand-holding. There is always some degree of resistance to change in any organization, especially when trying to implement a new system that is unfamiliar," he said. "But once they become familiar and more comfortable, they gain an appreciation for the many capabilities of Insight Via™ and how it can reduce recordkeeping and recording time."

The old way of searching through a myriad of file folders housed at several locations to access specific information is gone. Now it takes just "a couple of clicks."

"And for me specifically, the Web-based application is convenient, since I can be anywhere and access a specific record, then forward on to the facility's printer instantly. It's been a real timesaver that has also alleviated a lot of frustration," Hall said.

Growing as the Company Grows

Vita Plus has been gradually adopting Insight Via™ among all its locations, and while recorded incidents haven't yet fallen significantly, Hall emphasizes that the company has also added several more employees, which increases exposure to risk.

"The more employees, the greater risk of an injury or incident," he said. "All employee safety programs are a work in progress; nothing happens overnight. But since we have adopted and used more of the system's capabilities throughout all of our locations, we are experiencing respectable improvement. Our different facilities are learning from mistakes made by someone else – and learning from it."

"We are learning to work more safely from each other, albeit gradually," he said. "And the safer we are and the fewer injuries we have, the more productive and efficient we are as a company overall."

Learn more:

Email us: sms.info.na@dekra.com

Call us: 1 800-888-9596

Visit us: www.dekra.us/sms