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Total Quality Solutions

A Sampling of Inspect User Case Studies

Software Brings Certainty To Inspection Process

One of North America's largest stamping plants uses Inspect Software to track defects on automotive components, including full-body underframes, car roofs, doors and side panels. More than 400 parts are produced at this plant alone. Inspect has replaced paper concern sheets that were used to record defects and then filed away for future reference.



Now inspectors use a stylus to touch a line drawing of a part on a touch screen to indicate the area of the defect and the severity of the ranking. Defects are ranked on a scale of 0.1 to 1.0. If any defect is listed as a 0.5 or higher, the software immediately sends an e-mail to the appropriate managers.

Manufacturing representatives meet weekly to review color-coded concern reports ranking defects by severity. Data is compiled to determine where the problem areas are and what can be done to remedy them. These areas are then tracked to be sure that the improvements implemented are working.

"Instead of intuitively knowing where problems are, we now have data. Now we know," says the plant's continuous improvement supervisor. "We used to say, 'I think that this is probably what the problem is. Now we can say for certain.'"

Online Part Status Eliminates Incorrect Builds

An international heavy truck manufacturer needed to track customer-requested options to be installed on otherwise identical models of trucks. Because these options were tracked with paper route sheets, which could be easily lost or destroyed, assembly processes couldn't be determined and trucks awaiting optional parts had to be moved off-line to a staging area.



When parts arrived, assemblers had to walk from truck to truck in the staging area to match optional parts to truck chassis. In addition, inspection reports and warranty data were being documented by paper and pencil and keyed into separate databases for analysis and reporting.

Inspect Software provided the solution. Because Inspect uses a single database to generate reports from an internet browser, assemblers now can set the status for each part number online. External systems can query the Inspect database to determine the exact status of a particular vehicle, including missing parts, operations and rework times. Assemblers and quality managers can send e-mails and text messages to the material handling team for immediate action.

Inspect's electronic checklists help to determine if a particular VIN was assembled correctly by providing a series of questions for the inspector. Inspect compares these answers to the options for a particular vehicle and determines if the correct options were installed. The manufacturer has now experienced 18 consecutive months without a single incorrect build.

Visual Inspection Confirms Repair Status

A large defense contractor is an active partner in the program to refurbish and return Bradley Fighting Vehicles to active service in the Middle East. The contractor is responsible for inspecting, repairing and certifying over 100 different wiring harnesses for each vehicle.

Challenges in the program include:

- Eliminating communications breakdown on the factory floor
- Accounting for and reconciling reassigned parts
- Accurately identifying parts that need repair
- Tracking repair information



To meet these data-intensive challenges, the contractor selected Inspect Software. "Inspect provides a major improvement in communication," said the company's Quality Engineer. "There is no question about what needs to be done."

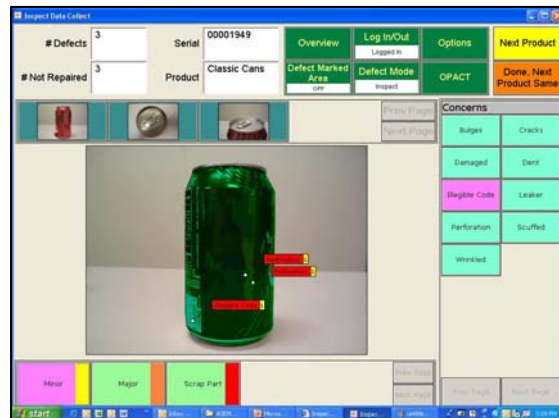
Incoming harnesses are scanned and a visual record is created in the Inspect system. The inspector uses this visual record to identify locations of needed repairs. The red markup flags on the visual record indicate the repair needed at a specific location.

Totes of inspected harnesses are routed to the desired station, and each cable is pulled from its tote and scanned to display the visual record. The team member makes the needed repair and notes the completion of the repair with a green flag.

Inspect has proved to be a superior communication tool, not only to aid with recording the incoming and final inspection, but also to allow repair personnel to confirm a specific repair is complete while using a simple visual graphic to communicate this information.

Beverage Producer Eliminates Paper Check Sheets

One of the world's largest soft drink producers manufactures its own beverage cans at multiple locations worldwide. After cans are manufactured, they travel to the beverage plant for filling, and when filling is complete, cans are randomly inspected for multiple quality and durability characteristics. Inspectors were using cumbersome paper check sheets for this process, and the data on the sheets then had to be keyboarded into multiple databases.



The company started a pilot program using Inspect Software. Digital photographs of

multiple views of a can were imported to Inspect to be used by inspectors to mark defects on critical areas of inspected cans. Critical parameters include such defects as faulty lips and seams, leaks, bulges, illegible barcodes, dents and cracks.

Inspectors now mark defects on the Inspect screen with the entered information immediately recorded in the database. Defects are assigned levels of minor, major or scrap. Concern spectrum reports are generated for analysis, with defects assigned both a numerical and color ranking ranging from green through yellow through red.

Manual keyboarding of data from paper check sheets has been eliminated. There is no longer a risk of check sheets being illegible, damaged or lost. Inspection time has decreased by 40% and information is immediately available to quality management to track critical defects and institute remedial measures. In addition, database information is also used for compliance tracking. The CAD files can be used to create components using closed non-circular vector objects within the file. This simplifies the addition of components when there are many objects in the file and removes some of the need for manual drawing of components on the views.



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