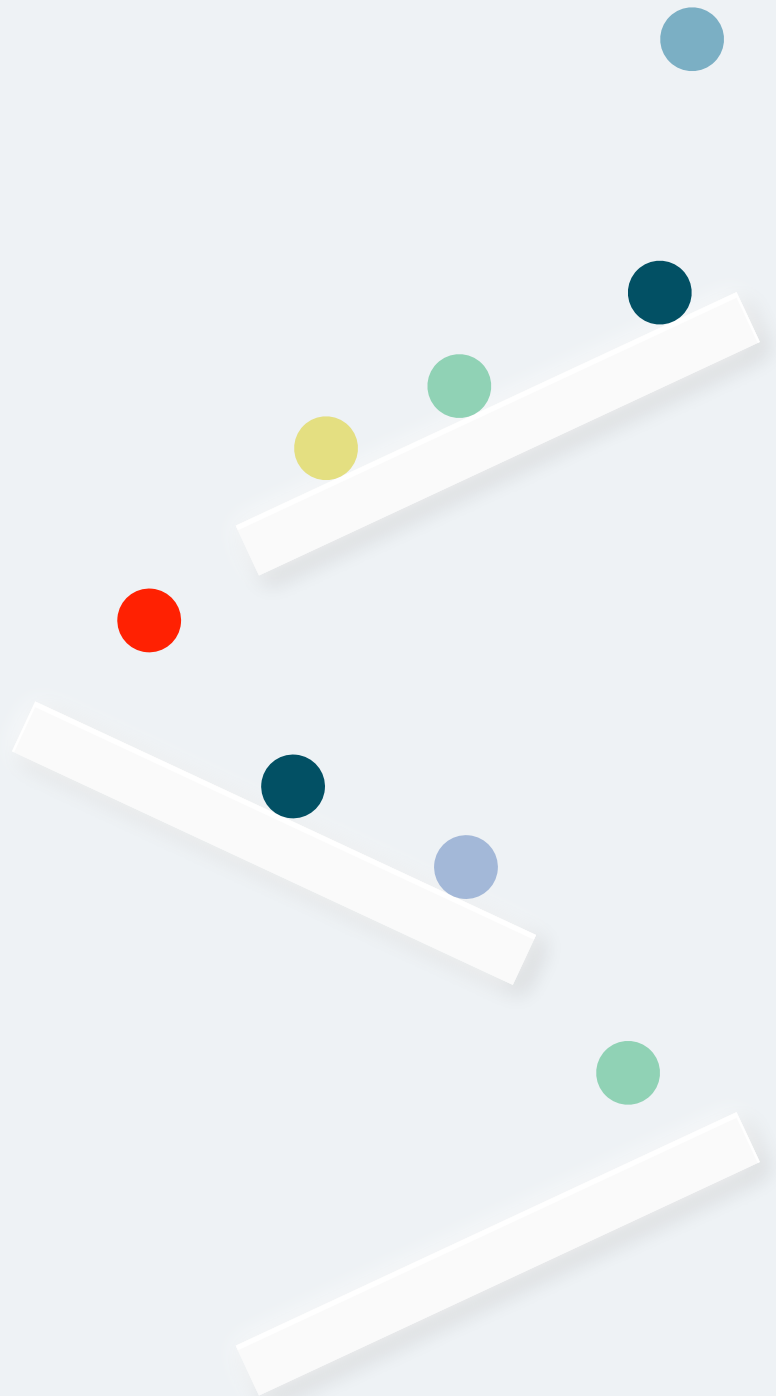


Epicor® White Paper

8 Benefits of Leaving Spreadsheet Based Quality Management Behind





“This is how it’s always been done,” is a dangerous statement for business leaders. Markets are far too competitive and change far too quickly for business-as-usual to deliver quality results. Today, you have to focus on how quality management processes can be completed smarter, faster, easier and with more agility.

While many companies are embracing new technologies to innovate, automate and optimize different aspects of operations, one aspect that can benefit from a move to digital processes right away is quality management. Forcing outdated “pencil and paper” or spreadsheet-based quality management systems (QMS) into today’s operations won’t work. By embracing an integrated QMS that leverages built-in quality best practices for your industry, you’ll unlock 8 key returns on your investment.

1. Improved Data Management

A fully integrated QMS enables you to organize and manage all recorded data in real time. This makes it easier to uphold and respond to industry standards, regulations and guidelines as they evolve. It also helps you ensure that your records are always in sync and that obsolete documents don’t remain in circulation. You are in position to more efficiently respond to audits, as well.

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2. Increased Visibility

Upgrading from spreadsheet-based quality management to an automated QMS centralizes your data and creates a document storeroom. This is a critical benefit as enterprises become increasingly distributed. With centralized documents, multiple employees can access updated data in real time no matter what location they’re in.

3. Waste Reduction

If you’re still using paper-based quality management, a modern QMS gives you an opportunity to make your business more sustainable. By completely eliminating the need for paper, you can cut costs while making your operations more environmentally friendly. Beyond the direct financial impact, this kind of shift toward green operations can improve your company’s public image.

4. Time Savings

Workflow inefficiencies can significantly reduce employee productivity which, in turn, hurts your bottom line. But with improved document control, automated processes and greater data visibility, your modern QMS will help employees and departments waste less time when searching for information and completing day-to-day tasks.

5. Better Accessibility

One reason that spreadsheet-based quality management is so inefficient is the time and effort it takes to access records. When data and documents are easy to edit, share, update and access, you'll be able to streamline the retrieval process while ensuring everyone is using consistent information and adhering to record retention compliance.

6. Financial Benefits

There are three direct ROI benefits you can gain from a fully integrated QMS: 1) general cost savings from shifting to electronic workflows - shifting from spreadsheet based to digital quality management decreases cost in labor and supplies while reducing human error that would otherwise hurt your margins; 2) identifying internal and external issues that can impact inventory, scrap, rework and recalls – all of which can have a significant cost and customer satisfaction impact; and 3) increasing revenues by being able to bring products to market faster and building higher customer loyalty.

7. Corrective Actions

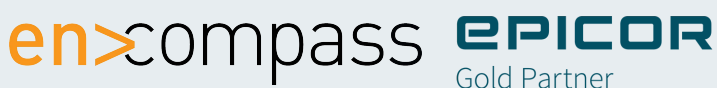
Outdated quality management processes make it difficult to implement corrective actions quickly to address potentially costly business issues. Heightened visibility and accessibility with an automated QMS make it simpler to implement corrective actions and ensure that standards are met and upheld. Integrating with your ERP and other manufacturing systems can automate these processes further.

8. Flexibility

Business requirements are constantly changing and quality management has to keep up. Spreadsheet-based processes aren't flexible enough to continuously adapt as necessary. Highly configurable and flexible QMS software is now capable of meeting the needs of any business or production environment—regardless of scope or size. Easy-to-tune, optimized and automated workflows will help you be more proactive in quality management across your organization.

Ready to leave spreadsheet-based quality management behind so you can increase efficiency, accuracy, throughput and, ultimately, improve product and service quality?

Now is the time to upgrade to a QMS that can deliver these returns.



Encompass Solutions is a business and software consulting firm that specializes in ERP systems, EDI, and Managed Services support for Manufacturers. Serving small and medium-sized businesses since 2001, Encompass has helped modernize operations and automate processes for hundreds of customers across the globe. Whether undertaking full-scale implementation, integration, and renovation of existing systems, Encompass provides a specialized approach to every client's needs. By identifying customer requirements and addressing them with the right solutions, we ensure our clients are equipped to match the pace of Industry.

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