

Customer Spotlight: Manufacturing

Microban® International, Ltd

Charlotte, North Carolina • microban.com



Company Profile:

Microban® is the global leader in built-in antimicrobial product protection solutions for consumer, industrial and medical products around the world. Microban® technology inhibits the growth of microbes such as bacteria, mold and mildew that can cause stains, odors and deterioration of products, and can be engineered into a breadth of materials including polymers, textiles, coatings, paper and adhesives.

Their Challenge:

In order to ensure appropriate levels of efficacy against microorganisms, testing is crucial to verify that the integrity of the Microban® brand is maintained among all the products that carry it on the label. Microban® has a matrix list of over 160 materials that are representative of their routine samples varying from liquids to powders, textiles to polymers of various compositions, ceramics to caulks and adhesives. Each of these materials may be tested according to one or more of 50 different microbiological or chemical tests. Chemical analysis must also be performed to ensure that the active ingredients are present at levels sufficient to create the antimicrobial effects intended for each product type. The typical lab throughput for microbiology and chemistry testing is approximately 3,000+ tests per month, requiring significant amounts of test data to be generated, reported, and tracked by material, project and test type.

Testing information is regularly reviewed by engineers within the various R&D departments and by senior management in order to assess the probabilities of success of projects, and to spot trends indicative of successful development. Also, the sales department needs timely access to information relating to Microban® clients' abilities to successfully implement antimicrobial technology into their products. These demands have led to the emergence of the Testing Laboratory as the single largest department in the company. Because of the large investment associated with the demands, there is constant need to monitor the flow of samples within the lab, and identify areas for improved efficiency through more effective resource deployment.

Our Solution:



Sample Master® Pro LIMS is enabling the Microban® laboratory to achieve their commitment to generating high quality data, improving turnaround time and automating as many manual laboratory tasks as possible. Key advantages include responsiveness, ease of use, the ability to customize, and the ongoing support that ATL provides.

The Data Entry interface is so simple and straightforward that chemists quickly learned how to use the software, resulting in rapid deployment. The microbiologists are enjoying unprecedented productivity in their test throughput by employing automated bacterial colony enumeration followed by data parsing with appropriate automatic calculations and reporting logic built into the parsers. With the judicious use of bar codes on the samples, test data is easily and quickly imported into Sample Master® Pro with total accuracy. ATL also developed instrument output parsers for Microban®'s HPLCs, GCMS, LCMS and two different bacterial colony counters.

I am very much convinced that Sample Master® Pro LIMS offers us the power and flexibility that our business demands, along with the ability to expand as we continue to grow.

*Duane Centola, Laboratory Manager
Microban® International*

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