APPLIED FOOD SOLUTIONS

A RECENT SUCCESS

AFS presented several topics at the Process Control Course at Ohio State in July 2019. Several software packages were utilized for the course. One participant responded to what was the most useful aspect of the course: "Most likely the data analysis softwares. Also hearing about the other companies was interesting."

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PROCESS CONTROL SOFTWARE

A business or organization decides they want to use Statistical Process Control (SPC) to manage their processes and/or service delivery. This is a momentous decision. The expectation (these are reasonable) is they will move from opinion based to fact-based decision making, customer satisfaction will improve, first pass quality will greatly improve, and the business/organization potentially becomes world-class. At some point during the execution of this change process they realize that nobody in the business/organization has the expertise to design or initiate the conversion process. So, the answer is……. software! Not surprisingly, software is not always a silver bullet solution. Not all software is created equal for this task, and the considerations are numerous.

First, there are two general types of analysis software available. These are statistical analysis software and/or process floor control software. Both types are powerful tools, but they are designed to do different things. Statistical analysis software provides data analysis tools for central tendency, variation, SPC, Design of Experiments (DOE), correlation, etc. Really just about everything you may have covered is a statistics class, with the addition of great graphics to display results. The designers of these software packages assume that the user knows what analyses are proper when. Hence these are primarily used by SPC belts, university researchers, etc. Analysis software are generally used on data we already collected or will collect during a designed experiment. They are not designed to be used to manage processes real-time. For real-time applications (process floor or service units) we utilize process floor control software. The designers of these packages assume users possess

minimal or no statistical background; and that supervisors, managers, etc. will wish to see output in real time. They essentially provide automation of the SPC process.

An often-overlooked application for analysis software is business measures. Whom could benefit from fact-based business decisions?

Do you need a partner to design/execute analysis or control software? AFS can help. We will provide expertise and we are a channel partner for Enact® process control software. We can also help make your existing system better. The links below contain some options available for analysis and control software:

SAS JMP: https://www.jmp.com/en_us/home.html

Minitab: https://www.minitab.com/en-us/

Enact: https://www.infinityqs.com/products/enact

Red Zone: https://rzsoftware.com/

Would You Like to Know More?

Please contact AFS if we can help you improve your business processes and/or your entire business. I welcome your feedback, questions, and thoughts on this topic.