operations¹

Soudronic Success Story

How Soudronic digitized, simplified and seamlessly integrated inspection processes in just a few weeks

About the company

Soudronic is a leading global manufacturer of production equipment for metal packaging, headquartered in Switzerland and employing over 600 people worldwide. Soudronic offers its customers from more than 120 countries a comprehensive range of products from individual components to complete production systems and stands for the highest quality, innovative strength and user-friendliness.

> "
> ## I have tried a lot and asked other companies. I thought I can't be the only one with this problem.
>
> Cyril Maurer
> Head of Testbench and Production, Soudronic

The challenge

When Cyril Maurer took over the department in 2016, he made it his goal to seamlessly digitally map a machine's inspection documentation throughout the entire production process.

Inspection processes were to become more efficient by eliminating paper, and process reliability was to increase through customized inspection instructions. Solutions such as InfoPath, PDF forms or MS Access could not meet the requirements.

–100%
EFFORT FOR FILING AND ARCHIVING

–95%
EFFORT FOR DOCUMENTATION

170.000 CHF
SAVINGS PER YEAR

Elaborate test documentation and risks for process reliability

Due to the high quality requirements, the Soudronic team developed a comprehensive inspection process. After production planning compiled an entire file folder of inspection documents per machine, this traveled with the machine through the various production departments and was filed and archived after the test was completed. With around 100 machines and components per year that have to meet the highest requirements for safety and reliability, this means a lot of documentation.

With a turnaround time of several months, different employees work on the same machine. With each change, they first had to get an overview of which inspection steps had already been completed. After each inspection, the department managers validated the complete documentation to ensure that each step had been performed.

In addition, the inspection documentation harbored risks for process reliability. Since Soudronic offers variants of machines and components, employees used so-called maximum lists for quality inspection. They had to know for themselves which of the inspection steps were relevant for each machine. Despite the enormous wealth of experience of the employees, a digital solution that was sustainable from a demographic point of view was important.

1.600

HOURS OF EFFORT FOR DOCUMENTATION PER YEAR

✓ Considerable effort for compilation, upkeep and filing of inspection documentation

✓ Lack of transparency on inspection progress

✓ Risks for process reliability

Easy implementation and integration of Operations1

The software has been in use at Soudronic since the beginning of 2020 and is used internationally and in multiple languages. In order to optimize the inspection process, which was characterized by paper printouts and system breaks, the integration with ERP and DMS followed promptly after the initial introduction. These connections enabled orders from the ERP to be automatically linked to the detailed inspection processes in Operations1, and quality records created in Operations1 could be automatically stored in the DMS.

Thanks to the modular process steps in Operations1, there is now a central point of process truth, which also drastically reduces adjustment efforts in the inspection documentation in the long term.
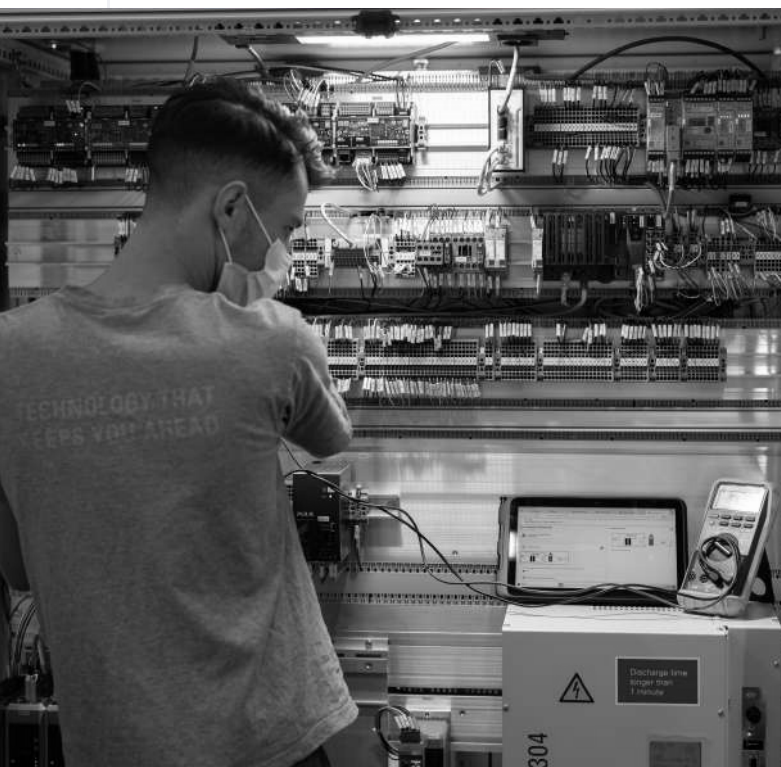
As a consequence, Soudronic now works in a fully integrated, partially automated and scalable solution.

During the introduction, the mechanical engineering company started with a very focused approach in order to roll out the solution across the group in the long term. While the initial focus was on mapping inspection instructions in combination with inspection protocols, documents such as assembly instructions and other descriptions and forms have now also found their way into the software.

> "
> **Operations1 has taken our inspection process to a new level. Employees can now concentrate on the inspection. Activities that add little value have been automated.**
>
> Cyril Maurer
> Head of Testbench and Production, Soudronic

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Less effort – more transparency and process reliability

Soudronic now has an end-to-end integrated solution for inspection processes, from the provision of documentation and interdepartmental inspection operations to the storage and tracking of quality information.

The compilation of documentation now runs digitally and efficiently by order – the effort required to do this was reduced by 95%. Automatic report generation and seamless data transfer to the DMS completely eliminated filing and archiving efforts. Thanks to a point of truth, change efforts were also reduced to a minimum. A change in a process step that is used multiple times is only made once, and affected documents are automatically adjusted.

Transparency and security of the inspection processes also increased enormously. When work starts in the departments, the inspection can now be continued directly, as the next inspection step is immediately visible. Thanks to the intuitive documentation, employees are guided safely through the inspection process by means of various interactions. The reports, which can be found quickly via the search function, also enable rapid processing and follow-up in the event of any complaints.

The advantages at a glance

- ✔ Savings of over CHF 170,000 p.a. through reduction of documentation effort

- ✔ Elimination of non-value-adding activities

- ✔ Complete transparency and high process reliability

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Do you also want to benefit from digital checklists and test instructions?

Let's talk about your use case. Contact us via www.operations1.com