Capturx Case Study

Teck Mining

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FOR MINING, FLEET MANAGEMENT, EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE

Summary

Background: Teck is North America's largest producer of steelmaking coal. Operating mine, equipment, and maintenance around the clock.

Challenge: Large volumes of vehicle and heavy equipment data from the shop floor takes time to manage, slows access to equipment status results and analysis.

Solution: Capturx Forms Service to automate forms data entry with digital pens and paper forms.

Results: Better operational visibility to equipment status minimizes downtime. Foremen are freed up from administrative work and can spend more time on the floor.

Teck Mining Minimizes Inefficiencies & Maximizes Profitability with Capturx

Steelmakers rely on coal from Teck, North America's largest producer of steelmaking coal and Canada's largest diversified mining company, to keep steel production running smoothly. To keep that steady supply of coal rolling, Teck operates mines, equipment, and maintenance operations around the clock. Foremen and Maintenance Engineers work in 12-hour shifts managing teams of heavy-machinery mechanics to identify, resolve, and prevent equipment issues that can lead to downtime, production shortfalls, and lost profit.

To keep the dayshift and nightshift teams in sync on equipment and potential issues, foremen extensively document every issue, part ordered, and maintenance step required or taken. Capturing and managing the large amounts of data takes time, and when managers went to automate the process, they selected Capturx forms software for digital pens.

Challenge:

Teck foremen manage and document all vehicle and heavy equipment data on paper inspection logs throughout the day. Quickly and easily capturing data on paper is well suited to the rough workshop environment, but entering the data into asset tracking systems was time consuming. Foremen would spend the last 2 to 3 hours of each shift off the floor and in the office typing notes into computers – doing the equivalent of a day of data entry every week. The foremen wanted to cut the administrative time spent off the floor, so they could help the mechanic teams keep operations moving steadily throughout each shift.

The equipment data captured by the foremen was also used by maintenance engineers, who compiled the data into special spreadsheets used to analyze and evaluate efficiencies, production, worker utilization, and warehouse inventory stocking.

The existing paper-based process created time-consuming data entry overhead, while also delaying access to the data which impeded operational visibility and decision making. Teck set out to find a solution that would automate their data capture and formatting, yet still be a good fit for the grease and grime and fast-paced environment of the shop floor.

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"Now our maintenance team, with minimal time and effort can pinpoint the answer to our most important question – 'Are there any inefficiencies creating production or downtime risks?' With access to up-to-date data, our engineers don't need to plan and invest their daily hours in manually compiling data before analysis happens."

TREVOR VIENNEAU
Maintenance Engineer
Teck Coal

Solution: Capturx Forms Service & digital pens

Teck selected the Capturx Forms Service for real-time data capture with digital pens and ordinary paper forms. With Capturx, foremen still easily write notes on the same log sheet they've been using for years. The digital pen instantly scans the handwritten data and uploads it to Teck's Microsoft SharePoint Server through a simple USB connection to a computer. In SharePoint, the data is instantly accessible in both the original handwriting and converted text and ready to be reviewed and discussed as the next shift-foreman arrives. Maintenance engineers can log into the server from any location and access the data reports that they need, in the format and file types they want. Since the data is keyword-search enabled, a quick search easily retrieves specific vehicle data, part numbers, productivity from a certain time period, and more.

"*Now our maintenance team, with minimal time and effort can pinpoint the answer to our most important question – 'Are there any inefficiencies creating production or downtime risks?'*" said Trevor Vienneau, Maintenance Engineer, Teck Coal. "*With access to up-to-date data, our engineers don't need to plan and invest their daily hours in manually compiling data before analysis happens*."

Results:

Better operational visibility to minimize downtime

Real-time visibility to equipment status
Now by simply docking the pen, the equipment data is instantly available in a comprehensive approach that enables both the foremen and engineering team to get the data they need, fast. Engineers can start data analysis right away – quickly pinpointing inefficiencies and finding solutions without pouring hours into compiling the data first.

Foremen spend more time on shop floor instead of doing paperwork
By freeing-up the foremen from administrative work, they can spend more time on the shop floor, overseeing projects, managing priorities, and troubleshooting. Foremen now have the equivalent of one additional day each week to devote to keeping productivity at a steady and uninterrupted pace.

Foremen aren't distracted by complex tools
Teck was able to get time- and labor-saving benefits using pen and paper without disrupting the shop floor workflow or creating new distractions. The digital pen was received well and fully operational in a short amount of time. It required virtually no training, and it is durable, easy to carry, and well-suited for mobile and rugged environments.