

Microban International, Ltd.

Company:

Microban International, Ltd.
Charlotte, North Carolina
<http://www.microban.com/>



Business Strategy:

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

Company Profile:

The Microban[®] company develops, markets and actively sells branded antimicrobial additives for inclusion in consumer and commercial products. To do this, microbiological testing must be conducted to ensure appropriate levels of efficacy against microorganisms. Chemical analysis must also be performed to ensure that the antimicrobial active ingredients are present at levels sufficient to create the antimicrobial effects intended for each product type. This testing is crucial to ensuring that the integrity of the Microban[®] brand is maintained among all the products that carry it on the label.

Sample Master[®] Pro LIMS at Microban:

Microban develops antimicrobial additives for inclusion in a broad range of materials. This process requires that significant amounts of test data 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 need to monitor the flow of samples within the lab and identify areas for improved efficiency through more effective resource deployment.

Microban has a matrix list of over 160 materials that are representative of their routine samples. These can vary 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. The typical lab throughput for microbiology and chemistry testing is approximately 3,000+ tests per month.

ATL has developed instrument output parsers for Microban's HPLCs, GCMS, LCMS and two different bacterial colony counters. The Sample Master[®] Pro Data Entry interface is so simple and straightforward that their chemists quickly learned how to use the software resulting in rapid deployment. The laboratory is committed to generating high quality data, improving turnaround time and automating as many manual laboratory tasks as possible and Sample Master[®] Pro LIMS is enabling the laboratory to achieve their goals. 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, this test data is easily and quickly imported into Sample Master[®] Pro with total accuracy.

Microban has found that there are a number of significant advantages with Sample Master[®] Pro LIMS:

1. Responsiveness
2. Ease of Use
3. Ability to be Customized to Meet Complex and Changing Business Needs
4. ATL Support Staff is Familiar with Laboratory Data Applications

"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, Ltd.



Accelerated Technology Laboratories, Inc. is headquartered in West End, North Carolina. For more information, contact ATL at 1-800-565-LIMS (5467) or e-mail us at info@atlab.com or visit www.atlab.com.