

EASE

Customer Story

Top 50 Automotive Supplier Reduces PPM by 73% with EASE



A leading automotive supplier facing strict internal requirements to reduce defects needed a new approach to its burdensome paper-based layered process audit (LPA) program. The company selected EASE to conduct mobile audits and quickly address nonconformances with corrective action while monitoring dashboard metrics for a high volume of process audits. The result: more audits completed, fewer defects, and higher than ever customer quality ratings.

Background

With 60+ plants globally and billions in annual revenue, this Fortune 500 company and tier 1 supplier makes drivetrains and transmissions for leading automotive OEMs.

The company has conducted LPAs since General Motors (GM) first made them a requirement several years ago, adding multiple checks to known risks and problems. Like many automotive suppliers, it originally relied on paper checklists and spreadsheets to conduct LPAs.

Manual LPA Administration Was Lacking on Multiple Levels

According to the division's head of quality for North America, the paper-based LPA process wasn't delivering its intended results.

"One of our large plants had a full-time employee who did nothing but compile and analyze data," he says. "So you had stacks of paper that someone had to sit there and sort through, and we also needed to track whether or not people were completing their audits."

Other problems associated with manual LPA administration included:

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- ☒ Overly general questions due to the difficulty of distributing and updating multiple versions of paper checklists
 - ☒ Audit completion rates of about 50%, decreasing LPA effectiveness
 - ☒ Lack of accountability around timeliness of corrective actions
 - ☒ Low visibility into whether operators were following standardized processes, a primary cause of defects
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The division as a whole was facing new internal requirements to reduce defects, calling into question whether the paper-based LPA program was up to the job.

Implementing EASE in Just 4 Weeks

The company piloted EASE at one of its facilities. During the pilot, the automatic notifications and instant reporting impressed the head of quality the most.

“It’s not hard to pull up the data and see when 80% of problems are coming off of a specific line or shift, or even pinpoint the specific process,” he says, adding that email alerts with online checklists helped keep the team on track.

The success of the pilot led to a rollout of EASE across the entire North American division, representing over a dozen plants, as well as more than 20 European sites.

Implementation took just four weeks at most facilities, allowing them to:

- ☒ Schedule audits for the entire plant in under 10 minutes
- ☒ Send automated email reminders with links to electronic checklists
- ☒ Notify team leaders of missed audits
- ☒ Complete audits on mobile devices and sync results automatically
- ☒ Address nonconformances with on-the-spot mitigation or corrective actions
- ☒ Monitor real-time dashboards and get instant reports on key metrics



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Drastic Reductions in PPM, Corrective Action Requests, and More

Overall, EASE has made a big impact on reducing defects and overdue corrective actions, while also improving quality culture and customer satisfaction.

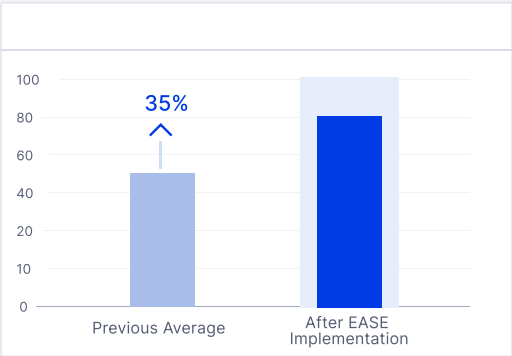
One fabrication and final assembly plant, in particular, that had struggled with defects was able to achieve significant results in just six months, including:

- ☒ 73% reduction in internal PPM
- ☒ 94% reduction in corrective action requests past due ≥ 45 days

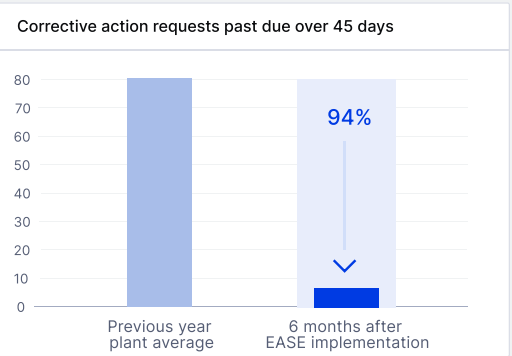
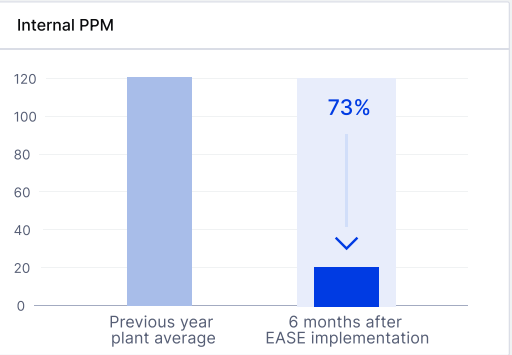
From a big-picture perspective, EASE has helped the division:

- ✓ Reduce defects to just 18 PPM, below its 20 PPM target
- ✓ Increase audit completion rates, which closely correlate with quality, to 85% or more at all plants
- ✓ Bring down scrap costs as a proportion of sales
- ✓ Minimize IATF nonconformities on the plant floor

Division-Wide Improvement
in Audit Completion Rate



Reduction in PPM and ISCARS
Past Due >45 Days



“EASE has allowed us to hold or improve our numbers, even with orders skyrocketing,” says the division’s head of quality. “The software more than pays for itself.”

The supplier’s performance has also impressed OEMs.

“Toyota, Nissan, Ford, GM, Chrysler — they’re all happy with us,” the head of quality says.

“In terms of quality, customer ratings are as high as I’ve ever seen them. One of our plants has even won the GM and Ford quality award two years in a row.”

He adds that EASE reinforces quality culture by keeping management involved on the plant floor and generating more conversations around quality.

“People see leaders out there doing audits daily, and when someone points out an issue, management makes sure it’s fixed,” he says, highlighting EASE’s closed-loop corrective action tools. “Seeing their feedback matters and that we’re solving problems they bring up makes all the difference.”

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About Ease.io

Ease.io’s cloud-based SaaS platform for manufacturers, EASE, digitally connects and automates critical plant floor work processes, including audits, inspections, task assignments, data collection, and more. Dana, Tenneco, Eaton, and other leading manufacturers in 40+ countries, use EASE to drive quality, safety, productivity, and compliance. Founded in 1986, Ease.io is headquartered in San Clemente, California.

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