

Food for thought

The perfect formula for water treatment solutions



Pure quality is food and drink to WCS Group

Food and beverage manufacturers and processors are constantly striving to optimise production whilst achieving the highest levels of quality and compliance. That's why WCS Group has raised the bar when it comes to water treatment, systems control and Legionella risk management. We strive to improve the efficiency of plant operations, protect employees as well as the environment and, ultimately, make our customers more competitive.

What do we do?

- We bring deep industry knowledge to food and beverage customers to help them optimise the efficiency and performance of plant and equipment, safely and reliably
- · We facilitate customer site inspection demands
- We ensure compliance with ACoP L8 and HSE guidelines
- We reduce energy and water use and optimise processes, systems and chemical control – making customers more competitive

How we deliver

Our people are engineers and water treatment system engineers with extensive experience and understanding of food (ready meals, fresh and frozen) and beverage companies. We apply outstanding system risk protection from corrosion, scale and bacteria as well as Legionella control through tailor-made risk assessment, chemical dose and water treatment solutions for each individual plant configuration.

- Closed heating and chilling systems
- Cooling towers and steam boilers
- · Chemical cycle, dosing, supply and monitoring
- · Sampling, testing and recording
- Treatment legionella control, disinfectant and cleaning
- Basic and Advanced ACoP L8 training and IOSH training

Why WCS Group?

- We bring supplementary technical knowledge and best practice
- Solutions are tried and tested but unique to your site / equipment and your starting point
- We can improve asset management and life cycle enabling new levels of performance
- Sustainable solutions to BSI ISO 14001, BSI ISO 9001 from Investors in People
- Full web-based water treatment communication and control 24/7 system monitoring

Food and beverage experience includes:



National coverage, local service

Technological advances are shared nationally but service is managed by local engineer teams who are familiar with specific sites and territories.

Case study 1 Healthier results for sugar and animal feed producer



Situation

A large UK food manufacturer and processor uses significant water and energy to maintain 24/7 365 days per year operation. Water treatment risk management, hygiene and Legionella control are high priority strategic risks requiring the very best solutions tailored to plant and equipment and sites.

Result

Site audits, strategic and operating risk assessments and process improvements have been used to identify, communicate and manage risk. Water usage and chemical usage is now down significantly. System operating efficiencies have been identified and realised. A number of HSE inspections have been carried out with successful outcomes. Improved visibility of monitoring data has increased standards of hygiene, compliance and control of operating risk. WCS Group now handle water treatment, water hygiene and air hygiene across all UK sites.

Case study 2 Crisper production for freshly prepared salad and processed vegetable supplier





Situation

A company focused on the supply and processing of freshly prepared salad and vegetables, wanted to reduce the number of Log Books whilst remaining ACoP L8 compliant. They also wanted to obtain better insight from data, sampling and operating practices.

Result

WCS Group introduced 'UP2Date' – a web-based water treatment communication and control 24/7 system monitoring tool enabling automated record keeping and full analysis. The system enabled all appropriate colleagues full access to, and a greater understanding of data and operating practice implications. It also identified scaling in the condenser tubes resulting in deteriorating operating performance and risk of bacteria beyond the tolerances set by the company. WCS Group ensured the system was thoroughly cleaned and introduced new scale control practices to minimise scale and restore pH operating values to target.

Case study 3 The fat of the matter



Situation

A company undertaking a substantial system investment programme, operates a steam rising plant for the processing of fats. However raw water quality (very high natural alkalinity) was causing the company to miss its planned operating process KPIs.

Result

WCS Group conducted a cost-benefit analysis for a reverse osmosis plant and confirmed pay-back would be less than nine months. Further system and process improvements were identified in parallel enabling the company to realise fuel savings on steam boiler operation, reduced water and chemical use and more efficient operation of water cooling towers. Blow downs were also reduced and additional caustic dosing was fitted to the boiler feeders to maintain far lower alkalinity. Corrosion monitoring was also installed on the cooling circuit to ensure that treatment was effective.

Case study 4 Refining systems for food manufacturer with multiple brands and UK sites



Situation

A company was unhappy with the lack of proactivity from an incumbent water treatment company. They wanted more attention on chemical cycles, dosing and the introduction of new technology and practices. Onsite staff were also poorly trained on associated maintenance they handle regularly in-house.

Result

WCS Group conducted site and risk assessments to establish an asset register, interdependence of systems and equipment and operating and performance benchmarks. System improvements were agreed impacting water treatment, chemical make-up, dosing, monitoring and hygiene. Cleaning schedules were updated. In-house staff training was conducted. Water cooling tower cycles were changed. Service reporting was increased. A chemical dosing WebMaster system was installed and 'Up2Date' introduced to ensure better reporting, communication and understanding of data and compliance. Overall operating expenditure efficiencies were realised within 12-months in addition to improvements in compliance.

Case study 5 Playing it cooler



Situation

A food manufacturer wanted to improve the level of sophistication and effectiveness of water treatment and cooling across several sites. In addition, more robust Legionella control and compliance was looked for in response to a combination of aging plant and new equipment investment.

Result

Site surveys and risk assessments were carried out to benchmark current performance and help set new, improved operational performance targets. Several water cooling towers were refurbished incorporating new technology and drift pack eliminators, as well as installation of state-of-the-art critical cooling systems with the ability to raise alarms if tolerances were not met. All data was recorded and accessed via a smart web-based communication system introduced by WCS Group – this enabled better understanding, decision making and compliance.

Case study 6 A meaty solution for Waitrose



Situation

A well-known meat processor operates dedicated sites to supply Waitrose with over 400 products including fresh pork, bacon, sausage, cooked meats and lamb. They were reviewing operating KPIs for a boiler and cooling systems on one site and wanted a second opinion..

Result

WCS Group benchmarked equipment performance with other "best in class" food production sites and advised scope for operational improvements and lower running costs. Ten years on, today WCS Group supplies a one-stop shop solution ensuring new levels of absolute site reliability, operating efficiencies and compliance. We manage the boilers and cooling systems, water cooling tower maintenance, sample coolant discharge for UK consent, effluent, water softening, chemicals, dosing and delivery, pipework modifications and all water treatment, water hygiene, Legionella control and related safety. Three subsequent HSE inspections have found "No errors or improvement issues".

Case study 7 Bakery improvements a piece of cake



Situation

A well-known UK bakery was experiencing time-consuming record keeping as a result of operating two steam boilers and a cooling tower on site and trying to fulfil ACoP L8 requirements for water hygiene monitoring. They required a more efficient and interactive system to provide evidence of compliance and control.

Result

WCS Group installed a WebMaster control system coupled with Walchem analytical sensors and integrated communication equipment. These improvements enabled 'smart' remote monitoring and control providing safe, secure and reliable data and reporting. The system was configured to match the client's operating requirements. Data is now logged automatically every 30 minutes including water usage, chemical cycles and information can be instantly analysed and printed for insertion in to Log Books. The system paid for itself within 18 months and helped prepare for customer site visits and inspections.

Case study 8 Everyone pleased as pie



Situation

A popular UK 'posh pie' manufacturer wanted to enhance production and improve operating practices to expand the business. It asked WCS Group to collaborate on possible production enhancements and likely effects and ROI.

Result

WCS Group installed Batching Water Metres that enabled predictable, accurate stop / start water measurement. This allowed the Production Manager to dramatically increase the rate of production. Pipework modifications and remedial works were advised and completed which ensured full compliance with 316 stainless steel installation guidelines. WCS Group now handle water treatment, water hygiene and regular testing for the site operator ensuring enhanced reliability, exacting compliance and sustained higher production.



A Marlowe Critical Services company

WCS Group is the 'Water Treatment and Hygiene' division of the Marlowe Critical Services Group owned by parent Marlowe plc.

Marlowe plc provides one access point for specialist 'highest standards' across;

All nine divisions can be accessed singularly or in combination.

The Group shares many common customers and collectively employs 2,200+ specialists, servicing around 30,000 customers.

Compliance. Assured.

WCS Group core services		
WATER TREATMENT	WATER HYGIENE	WATER ENGINEERING
Cooling Tower Systems	Legionella Risk Assessment and	Design and specification for
Evaporative Condensers	Water Hygiene Surveys	water treatment
Steam Boilers	Monitoring / Inspection Contracts with	Installation
Low and Medium Pressure Heating Systems	Log Book Management	Reverse Osmosis plant
Chilled Water Systems	Remote temperature monitoring	Cooling Tower maintenance
Pre-commission Cleaning	Cleaning and Disinfectant Works	Plumbing and remedial works
Pre-Treatment Plant, Dosage, Chemical	Remedial Works	Installation of water softeners
Cycle and Control	Asbestos Risk Assessment	Pre-treatment plant
Remote data logging		Closed system chemical cleaning
Web-based electronic log book	AIR HYGIENE	Waste water management
Swimming pools and Spas	Air Hygiene Risk Assessment Survey	Re-purposing and harvesting of wate
	Indoor Air Quality Monitoring	
WASTEWATER	Cleaning and Treatment of Air Handling	asbestos
Water Recycling	Equipment	Asbestos Surveys
Water and Wastewater equipment		Air Monitoring and 4 Stage Clearance
supply and service	TRAINING SERVICES	Asbestos Bulk Sampling and Analysis
Wastewater Treatment plant design /	eLearning	Fire Risk Assessment
supply / install	Legionella Control Training	CDM
Wastewater equipment hire	WCS Group / IOSH / City & Guilds /	Principle Designer
ndustrial Effluent monitoring and	COSHH training	Construction Site Safety Audits
optimisation	On-site training for bespoke needs	Contractor Assessment

www.wcs-group.co.uk

Enquiries: +44 (0)845 094 4300 alex.winter@wcs-group.co.uk

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