Seasoft Helps Eastern Fisheries Attain BRC Certification

Eastern Fisheries, headquartered in New Bedford, MA is a vertically integrated, global supply leader in the seafood industry and a trusted seafood source to some of the largest retailers, food service distributors and wholesalers in the world. Founded in 1978 by Roy Enoksen and Frank O'Hara, Eastern Fisheries harvests, imports, and distributes premium seafood worldwide. Today, Eastern owns and operates the largest scallop fleet in the industry and operates facilities in the U.S.A , China, Europe and Japan.

Recently the company pursued certification from BRC Global Standards, a leading brand and consumer protection organization, used by over 25,000 certificated suppliers over 130 countries, with certification issued through a global network of accredited certification bodies. BRC Global Standards' guarantee the standardization of quality, safety and operational criteria and ensure that manufacturers fulfill their legal obligations and provide protection for the end consumer. BRC Global Standards are now often a fundamental requirement of leading retailers, manufacturers and food service organizations.

"Due to complex challenges in today's food supply chain, many of the world's largest food retailers are mandating supplier certification to Global Food Safety Initiative (GFSI) schemes, which include BRC," said Lou Tarnowski, CFO at Eastern Fisheries. "While product traceability is just a component of BRC's rigorous, all-encompassing certification program, it is a critical piece nonetheless, and the Seasoft ERP software was instrumental in helping us meet these strict requirements."

"As part of our certification process we conducted a series of mock recalls to demonstrate our ability to trace a specific lot all the way back to the original purchase order," Tarnowski said. "Seasoft passed with flying colors, providing real-time access to information about the vendor that the product was acquired from as well as those customer or customers to whom it was sent."

Traceability to the Lot Level

To provide certification-class traceability, Seasoft assigns a unique lot number to all inventory items received into the system and associates the lot number with the original purchase order. The lot numbers are recorded as inventory, sold to a customer or entered into production, so you know, at a moment's notice, which vendor provided you with a product and which customer took delivery of a specific batch.

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And Seasoft always maintains a record of the original lot number, even for items that go through multiple production processes and have a new item numbers subsequently assigned to them.

With Seasoft, it's simple to trace an item from a customer invoice back to its original purchase order as well. In addition, Seasoft can explode all of the information from an original purchase order to reveal what production processes the item has passed through, along with a complete accounting of where the finished product has been sold.

Seasoft can assist any organization seeking to 'implement and maintain appropriate food safety management procedures and systems' associated with BRC Certification or certification with any other major GFSI-compliant program, including the ability to:

- Identify any outsourced production, inputs or services related to food safety

- Maintain a complete record of in-process material or final product and packaging throughout the production process

- Maintain a record of purchaser and delivery destination for all seafood products

- Provide product identification that includes, at a minimum, the origin (producer and country) and the date of production or packing

- Provide input product identification, including feed and feed additives that includes, at a minimum, the name of the producer and lot or batch number

Gail Brunelle, Sr. Project Manager at Seasoft said, "We understand that quality and safety is part of the foundation of each of our customers' businesses. Seasoft's traceability solution tracks product as it's received, processed and moved through the supply chain, providing on-demand vendor information, lot numbers, PO, expiration date, country of origin, method of production (M.O.P.) and other information. This limits product recalls to those affected by the specific problem or vendor material lot, saving considerable money that an overly-broad recall would cost."

About Seasoft Software

Seasoft Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Software is a mission-critical, turnkey business management solution that helps Seafood Processors and Distributors make more money (operate more profitably) through increased efficiency, reduced costs, enhanced inventory controls, improved accuracy of yields and costs, elimination of unacceptable shipping delays, and the ability to respond quickly to food safety issues.

To find out more, call 800.422.4782 or visit caisoft.com/seasoft.