

Food Safety and Accurate Weight Supported In One Step

The Spanish poultry farming and processing company AVICU successfully conjoins weighing with food safety.

AVICU sells over 80% of their products through retail chains and has an 8% market share for fresh packed chickens and 2% of cooked chicken products in Spain. As a BRC and IFS certified company fulfilling food safety requirements such as traceability is essential.

Successful collaboration

AVICU has worked with METTLER TOLEDO Spain for many years. The longlasting relationship originates from three pillars.

- Consulting: METTLER TOLEDO product and system specialists support AVICU in determining the best solution for cost-efficiently maintaining production, quality and regulatory requirements.
- Solutions: METTLER TOLEDO is the one source for all weighing related products, software, engineering and systems needed to meet AVICU's specific requirements of hygienic design, ruggedness, traceability and data integration.

- Services: From calibration, preventative maintenance up to system support METTLER TOLEDO services ensure consistent uptime and compliance.

AVICU confirms: "METTLER TOLEDO provides precise, long-lasting scales, excellent software systems and services. The very smooth relationship with the product and system specialists, who always try to understand and "feel" our needs, is one of the main reasons why we like working with METTLER TOLEDO."

In 2006 it was time to renew parts of AVICU's order preparation system. AVICU sells packed poultry products in pre-commissioned plastic boxes. METTLER TOLEDO was asked to modernize the labelling and box weighing system after it had been working without any problems for many years. The software had to be updated and the weighing terminals replaced. AVICU states: "After speaking with the METTLER TOLEDO system specialists,



METTLER TOLEDO Safeline® metal detector helps to guarantee food safety



Vehicle scale for fast and precise accounting for incoming and outgoing goods

METTLER TOLEDO solutions at AVICU, Guadalajara (Spain):



1. Receiving/Shipping

- Vehicle scale
- Bench and floor scales for goods-in/-out weighing

2. Spice Room

- Software based recipe weighing system

3. Packaging

- METTLER TOLEDO Safeline® metal detectors

4. Order Preparation

- Box weighing, labeling and data integration into MES



AVICU's key benefits

Scales are important identification points to collect traceability data such as product IDs, weight values, batch numbers and for clear labeling of products and boxes. AVICU: "Due to the excellent consultancy and system support the conjunction between

- precise net weight determination for billing reasons
- traceability data and
- maintaining food safety by using hygienically designed equipment is succeeded.

We like to work with a competent supplier of latest, innovative weighing equipment and software, which runs on top of that a competent service organization with fast reaction times."

we naturally had to consider them as they provided excellent software and hardware which met our needs with regard to the integration of data and food safety."

Box weighing for harsh environment

The three recently installed box weighing stations at AVICU are equipped with METTLER TOLEDO ID30 industrial weighing PCs, PBA430 weighing platform, label printers and software for data processing. ID30 is a rugged industrial weighing terminal and high-performing PC in one solution. Top efficiency and high flexibility are bundled in a corrosion-resistant stainless steel housing, fully IP69k protected for high pressure wash down procedures. The terminal comprises an elegantly flat screen display with an intuitive touch screen human-machine-interface and a separate computer-unit.

Weighing platforms used in hygienically sensitive areas need to be cleaned easily especially if they are installed in difficult to reach places like under a conveyor belt. The PBA430 weighing platform fulfils these premises: First of all with a hermeti-

cally sealed stainless steel load cell, IP68 and IP69k protected for prolonged submersion and high pressure cleaning, and secondly with a hygienically designed construction in accordance with the EHEDG and NSF guidelines for use in hygienically sensitive areas.

Data integration made efficiently

Boxes arriving over a conveyor belt are identified for tare weight subtraction. Out of five box categories operators are selecting the right one, net weight is determined and associated with product data. The software written by METTLER TOLEDO system specialists provides the correct batch number and expiry date associated with the products inside the box and prints out labels including net weight. The system receives data from the higher-level MES and returns data back to it. AVICU underlines: "With the new software weight data, batch numbers, and expiry date are among others stored in a SQL database. If a problem with the MES system occurred in the past, this caused stoppage of the whole process. Now, when the system is down, the box weighing activities can simply continue independently."



Box weighing installation with IP69k protected weighing terminal and PBA430 weighing platform



ID30 PC weighing terminal with label printer and data processing software



EHEDG: European Hygienic Engineering and Design Group
NSF: National Sanitation Foundation (US)



Dustproof and suitable for cleaning with high-pressure equipment