



CASE STUDY

Algood Food Company[®] Ensures Food Safety and Plant Security, Monitors Costs with LobbyGuard[®]

Algood Food Company, headquartered in Louisville, Kentucky, with plants in Louisville and Lawrenceburg, Kentucky, is one of the country's leading packers of private label peanut butter, jellies, and preserves.

- Founded in 1985 in Louisville
- Monitor and track 100+ visitors and contractors per week
- 4 LobbyGuard[®] kiosk units at 2 locations

CHALLENGE

Brittany Timberlake, Executive Administrative Assistant for Algood Food Company, emphasizes the innovative approach that Algood has always taken in the peanut butter manufacturing industry. For example, Algood was the first private label peanut butter manufacturer to have its own in-house microbiological laboratory and the first to convert from glass to PET (polyethylene terephthalate) jars, the plastic containers now commonly used for soft drinks, water, juice, salad dressings, and other foods.

“In that same vein of innovation, we started looking for a cost-effective and efficient way to manage the more than 100 visitors entering our facilities each week, to help keep our food products safe and ensure the security of our facilities,” Timberlake explains. “An electronic system to manage visitors seemed like a good idea, but we also wanted to reassign some jobs in our facilities. It was inefficient to have multiple people manning our front desks, so we thought an automated system might enable us to move some of that headcount.”

Algood had been using manual visitor logs, which were scanned to create electronic copies while the bound logs themselves were retained. The manual records were inherently subject to inaccuracy, often only marginally legible, and both bulky and time-consuming to physically manage. “FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act) regulations require that we keep complete, accurate records of visitors coming in and out of our facilities. We have to screen, monitor, and track contractors separately, and we have to know that they have been appropriately trained. For all these reasons,” Timberlake says, “we needed an automated visitor management system.”

SOLUTION

Algood executives selected LobbyGuard® to automate their visitor management processes. The company has four LobbyGuard kiosk units across two locations.

“LobbyGuard lets us know exactly who is coming into our plants, who they’re here to visit, the purpose of the visit, and who is escorting them while they’re here. All the data for each visitor or contractor is immediately recorded in the system, so there are no more cumbersome handwritten log sheets,” Timberlake elaborates.

Accurate visitor records are instantly available to FDA auditors. The system also enables Algood to screen and confirm training status for each of its contractors. Regarding general plant security, the LobbyGuard system ensures that unwanted visitors, such as dismissed former employees and estranged employee spouses, are instantly identified and prevented from gaining access to facility interiors.

RESULTS

“The elimination of the antiquated log processes, the cost savings of enabling us to put employees where we need them most, the ability to screen contractors’ training status and verify their charged time—which we also use LobbyGuard for—have made a big, big difference,” Timberlake continues. “The ability to go back and pull visitor records and to verify someone’s presence in a facility down to the minute almost instantly was virtually impossible when you had to go back and consult hundreds of handwritten visitor logs.”

Bottom line for Timberlake: the LobbyGuard visitor management system helps ensure plant security and food safety. “That’s the true value of having this system,” she says. “It helps us keep unwanted visitors out, it helps us accurately track every visitor to keep us in FSMA compliance, and it helps us guarantee a safe, quality food product for our customers.” She concludes, “I’d happily recommend LobbyGuard to any company looking for an easy-to-use automated visitor management system.”

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— *Brittany Timberlake, Executive Administrative Assistant,
Algood Food Company*

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