

**We all know that waste is the enemy of modern manufacturing.
So why is it so hard to eliminate it?**

The first step in reducing waste is identifying it: what is it, where did it come from and how much is there. It's a simple concept, but one that many consumer products companies struggle with.

Roadblocks include unwilling operators, difficult IT departments, lackadaisical suppliers and increasingly complex processes.

Once it is identified and the hard work of process improvement begins, waste must still be continually monitored to document progress and prevent regression.



J.A. King has extensive experience creating tailored systems for customers to help them identify and track their manufacturing waste. Our engineers design systems that are simple in concept but yield powerful results. Options include:

- All types of connectivity to match your particular network requirements
- Completely stand-alone systems with data export options, to please the pesky IT department
- Portability, even into hazardous areas, to monitor multiple lines with the same system
- I/O capabilities to control external devices. Think locking out a waste bin until the data has been recorded
- Data analysis and reporting to help you identify and remove sources of waste



Commonwealth Brands is part of the Imperial Tobacco Group and a long-time J.A. King customer. The company produces the Malibu, USA Gold and Sonoma cigarette brands, among others, as well as loose cigarette tobacco and cigarette tubes in their Reidsville, NC facility.

Commonwealth recently launched their Organisational Excellence Programme, or OEP, a continuous improvement initiative based on LEAN principles. Said John McPherson, Commonwealth's Secondary Production Manager, "OEP is all about driving performance through increasing Overall Equipment Effectiveness (OEE) and minimizing waste."

McPherson said, "We saw we had a waste problem, but we couldn't pinpoint where it was coming from. We needed the transparency of understanding where our waste was being generated with a view to reducing it."

J.A. King and Commonwealth Brands have a historic relationship going back several decades, with J.A. King providing calibration for their scales and precision measurement equipment. Because of this working relationship, Commonwealth called J.A. King first when starting to specify a system to identify and track waste.

"Our current equipment couldn't provide the measurements we needed, so J.A. King designed and manufactured a custom system to our specification. Within the specification, we also required the ability to have future modification, to have full admin rights to expand or modify the scope of the process if we needed to in the future," said McPherson.

J.A. King's Application Engineer Tom Huff, working with the company's engineering department, designed a system to measure tobacco rejects from cigarette makers and packers and a second for non-tobacco material rejects from tube manufacturing machines. Each involved pairing an Avery Weigh-Tronix E1310 indicator with a Pennsylvania 6600 5,000lb capacity floor scale, with custom software, barcode scanners, Ethernet modules and PC-based software.



Each system is unique, built around the customer's specific requirements. All are easy to use and tough enough to stand up to today's manufacturing environment.

Click on the case study to the left to see how J.A. King helped Commonwealth Brands reduce their waste by 30%.

Whether you have milligrams of overflow or dumpsters full of scrap, J.A. King can help you find, document and bring your waste under control. Click the button below to get in touch with a J.A. King application specialist to discuss your requirements.

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