

## Poultry Processing Plant Increases Productivity and Meets OSHA Requirements with RF IDEas Readers

Leveraging existing ID badges eliminates redundancy and errors



The poultry processing business today is more complex, high risk, and demanding than ever before. Stricter regulatory demands, skyrocketing prices, and critical food safety issues continue to present growing challenges. At the same time, management is always looking for ways to increase efficiency and productivity, while maintaining the highest levels of worker safety.

### **CHALLENGE:** Safety gloves prevent easy computer log-in

In the hazardous environment of a meat processing plant, production line employees are required by law to wear protective clothing, including safety shoes or boots with toe guards and slip-resistant soles, as well as protective gloves to help reduce the spread of infectious disease. However, while the gloves helped protect the workers at a large North American processing plant, the thickness and lack of tactile sensitivity sometimes created a problem. Authorized employees who were responsible for operating automated machinery on the production floor needed to type an alphanumeric password into the keyboard of a computer terminal in order to gain access. However, the heavy safety gloves rendered the process cumbersome and lengthy.

They also found it nearly impossible to successfully log in with a single attempt. Like most secured terminals, if the password is entered incorrectly three times, the system locks out the user. The employee would then have to call the help desk to ask someone to reset the password. This created a drain on resources and productivity both for the production line employee and the help desk representative. In some cases, employees would become so frustrated, they removed their protective gloves and logged in with exposed skin. This was not only a safety issue for the employee, it was an OSHA violation and represented a serious liability to the company.

### **SOLUTION:** RF IDEas' pcProx® Writer and pcProx Playback

With the level of employee frustration at an all-time high, management contacted one of RF IDEas' partners to review the process, provide consultation and recommend a solution. After observing and understanding the workers attempt to log into the computer and noting that all employees have ID badges, the partner recommended the RF IDEas pcProx Writer and pcProx Playback solution. The pcProx Playback interfaces the employee badges (contactless cards) to existing applications and systems without the need to change or update those systems. With plug-and-play functionality, pcProx Playback readers deliver user data from the employee badge to the desired application or machine. The pcProx Writer was used to encode the same alphanumeric password into their current employee ID badges so re-enrollment was avoided.

Highly configurable, the reader allows users to change the location being read on the contactless card as required. The multi-application reader delivered significant cost savings to the plant because there is no need for pilot tests, training, software updates, technical support, licenses or the hassle of incompatibilities. The readers simply plug and play.

**RESULTS:** Increased productivity and OSHA compliance with little investment

- **Increased efficiency:** Employees now simply wave their door access ID badge near the RF IDEas reader mounted next to the computer terminal to quickly and easily gain access to the machinery.
- **Increased productivity:** After several weeks of using the pcProx Playback, employee productivity increased and calls to the help desk to reset passwords decreased significantly.
- **OSHA compliance:** Since employees are no longer tempted to remove their safety gloves to type in a password, both OSHA requirements and adherence to the safety protocols within the production area have been met.
- **Minimal cost:** Because RF IDEas products are adaptable to multiple technologies, the new solution only needed to be rolled out to the few employees who needed authorization. Those employees are now able to use their existing ID badges for both door access into the building and to the computer terminals, saving the processing plant thousands of dollars by not having to switch out their old system to accommodate a few employees.

Employee ID badges and the pcProx family of readers are used in a variety of applications through a manufacturing facility. Some example applications are:

- HMI, PAC and PLC interface for automatic identification and authorization
- Single sign-on for computer and program authentication and access
- Secure print management
- Training compliance
- Time and attendance
- Mobile workforce
- Employee authorization to work on specific SKUs
- Industrial tool control
- Cashless cafeteria

*For more application information, visit [www.RFIDEas.com](http://www.RFIDEas.com).*



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