

Lonza Advances Manufacturing Excellence with MODA eLogs

By replacing paper logbooks with MODA eLogs, one Lonza site streamlined records management, improved operational efficiency, and drove manufacturing excellence throughout the organization.

Lonza operates one of the world's most advanced contract development and manufacturing (CDMO) facilities, specializing in mammalian cell lines, process and analytical development, monoclonal antibodies, recombinant proteins, and allogeneic cell therapy products.



Like all pharmaceutical manufacturers, Lonza must maintain rigorous control over its manufacturing operations to support regulatory compliance, patient safety, and product quality. At one of its manufacturing sites, their team relied on paper-based logbooks to document equipment cleaning, maintenance, calibration, process monitoring, and other operational activities. Lonza knew it needed to digitize its manufacturing operations to improve efficiency and effectiveness, but as it began the journey, the limitations of paper-based processes became increasingly apparent.

Business Challenges

Lonza found that managing its operations with paper logbooks was not only expensive, but had created process and compliance challenges across the site.

Teams were responsible for creating, distributing, completing, reviewing, and archiving large volumes of paper records. Operators required training not only on manufacturing procedures, but also on documentation practices and sign-off requirements. Extracting data from handwritten notes was time-consuming, while archival storage added ongoing costs and administrative overhead.

The site also tried introducing sanitizable paper to support GMP practices. While at first it showed some advantages, the new paper ultimately raised concerns about the long-term durability and readability of archived records due to the use of harsh chemicals in non-controlled areas. Lonza recognized that relying on paper would limit operational efficiency and make future growth hard to achieve.

With MODA eLogs, Lonza predicted:



15.25 hours saved per logbook



98% reduction in total time required



86% reduction in total number of actions

Key challenges included:

- Time-consuming paper-based record management
- Complex archival and retrieval processes
- Concerns about long-term record durability
- Limited visibility into operational data
- Administrative burden associated with compliance documentation
- Inefficient review and approval workflows

Why Lonza Chose MODA

To face these challenges, Lonza implemented a digitalization strategy where it would roll out MODA eLogs to replace paper logbooks across its site.

Rather than simply digitizing existing forms, the team reviewed each process and workflow to identify opportunities for improvement. Unnecessary steps were eliminated, critical controls were reinforced, and workflows were redesigned to improve efficiency and consistency.



MODA eLogs introduced guided digital workflows that help operators complete tasks correctly and consistently. Built-in logic validated Lonza's data as it was entered, prompts users when follow-up actions were required, and helped prevent critical steps from being missed. The platform also improved data integrity by standardizing data capture and providing immediate visibility into operational records.

With MODA eLogs, Lonza estimated that it would:

- Save 15.25 hours per logbook
- Reduce process time by 98%
- Reduce the total number of required actions by 86%

Results

Following the transition to MODA eLogs, Lonza realized measurable improvements in efficiency, compliance, and operational performance.

Benefits included:

- Elimination of paper logbook management and archival activities, including ordering, organizing, and archiving records
- Improved data integrity and process consistency
- Reduced risk of missed or incomplete process steps
- Faster access to historical records and operational data
- Increased operator productivity through guided workflows
- Accelerated review and analysis of manufacturing records

As part of the implementation, Lonza consolidated 59 paper logbooks into 36 electronic logbooks, creating a more streamlined and efficient operating environment.

By digitizing its manufacturing operations with MODA, Lonza also saw significant cost savings. The company no longer buys, manages, or stores paperwork, and has cut time and effort off tracking logbooks across multiple departments.

Most importantly, manufacturing records are now available for review and analysis immediately after completion, helping support faster batch release and more efficient operations.

Today, MODA eLogs plays an important role in Lonza's ongoing digitalization strategy, helping the organization improve efficiency, strengthen compliance practices, and advance its broader manufacturing excellence initiatives.

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