PERMIT TO WORK:
SWITCHING FROM PAPER TO ELECTRONIC

CUSTOMER

John Pointon & Sons

The UK's largest single site rendering and recycling facility

LOCATION:

Staffordshire, England, UK

EMPLOYEES:

>200

REQUIREMENT:

Managing and Simplifying the Permit to Work process across different facilities

SOLUTION:

➤ Adopting Pisys PTW Permit to Work Software
➤ Switching from Paper to Electronic

RESULT:

➤ Simplified PTW workflow
➤ Less Administration
➤ Better Overview of ongoing jobs at all facilities

BACKGROUND

John Pointon and Sons are the UK's largest single site rendering and recycling facility. They provide waste disposal, recycling and environmental solutions for animal by-products and food waste.

The company, which employs more than 200 people in their state of the art facilities across Staffordshire, is the only UK based recycling and rendering company to obtain both ISO14001 and OHSAS 18001 Environmental and Health & Safety accreditations.

John Pointon and Sons use their Permit to Work system for managing Working at Height, Hot Work, Confined Space Entry and some Excavations.

CHALLENGES

- High volumes of PTWs created across several large facilities.
- Each PTW managed in isolation – required an overview of all ongoing Permits at the entire facility or across facilities.
- High volumes of approvals, workflows and closeouts to manage using paper-based system.
- Admin burden of the existing paper-based system.
- The need to maintain a paper audit trail for maintaining their ISO and OHSAS accreditations.

SOLUTION

- The existing paper-based system was replaced by Pisys PTW Permit to Work Software, which covers the whole workflow of PTW creation, approvals, closeout and retrieval.
- Help with setup and customisation by Pisys, using existing Permit to Work Questions and workflows to allow a seamless transition to the new system.

RESULTS

- Simplified management and administration of large numbers of permits
- Automated workflow – from creation to handback of permits
- Clear overview of all ongoing jobs at all facilities, helps manage concurrent PTW activities
- Reduction in paper admin and time saving
- Easy compliance and audit trail for ISO14001 and 18001
- Detailed knowledge of each Permit without having to visit the work site
- Overview of which contractor works at which site
- Better communication with contractors & easier agreement of work scope

CUSTOMER TESTIMONIAL: NICK PELLINGTON / DAVE CARR OF JOHN POINTON AND SONS

"John Pointon and Sons have grown steadily, and we reached a point where large numbers of Permits were created at our facilities every day by staff and a pool of contractors. We had a good PTW system in place already – it was based on filling in forms and signing these off before the work started.

We wanted to know which permits were open, and which ones had been completed and closed out. And we wanted to get an overview of all the ongoing work in our facilities, without having to physically be there.

In addition, we wanted to ease the admin burden of filing of the paper permits and occasional retrieval. We needed to be able to go back and look at past permits during audits and inspections, as we are ISO14001 and OHSAS18001 accredited.

We were looking for a system to simplify the management and administration of permits, possibly go electronic while still using people's own signatures, and without losing any good parts of our PTW system that we had built up over the years.

> ❝ **Pisys came along just at the right time and provided a great solution at a very competitive price".**

They had contacted us as part of an advertising campaign for Pisys ATMS.

Pisys provided a simple, workable solution for the electronic management and administration of Permits to Work.

> ❝ **Pisys went out of their way to get it right for us".**

Of course, they came and visited our site as part of the process.

The Pisys Developers listened to our requirements carefully and helped us set up the software so that it did exactly what we wanted it to do.

We were able to transfer our existing Permit to Work questions from the paper PTW forms to the

system, so the questions and terminology were already familiar to our users. This is one of the reasons why the software was so easy to learn, and we were able to deploy it across our sites within a couple of weeks.

We are getting very good feedback from contractors and staff, and everyone who has seen the software wants to use it.

We are especially pleased with the way the digital signatures work on iPads, tablets and even iPhones – wherever there's access to WiFi or mobile phone reception.

Using the system has helped us streamline and unify our own PTW creation process – and we find that the system is a great tool for making agreements between John Pointon Supervisors and the contractors that are performing the job.

All they do is meet up and go through a series of questions and prompts together. It means that they are on the same page, and agreements can be made easily.

We also really like the Permit Board: it flags up any conflicting activities and helps us manage those activities better.

At John Pointon and Sons, we take the Safety of our workers and the Environment seriously, and to us, the Permit to Work System is all about reducing risks".

> **"** **Pisys have helped us transform an already good system for PTW into something better, safer and easier to manage.**

"Pisys PTW is a system that really works for us.

And if it works for us, it will work for anybody, in any industry."

Following their success with Pisys PTW, John Pointon & Sons are now considering Pisys ATMS Action Tracking Management System for their HAZOPS/HAZID.