



Factfile: Trac-IT Yield Control Module

Unnecessary product giveaway during the fruit packing process significantly affects profits. Pack-house operators have to strike a fine operational balance between packing speed and accuracy; whilst in parallel meeting pack weight legislation and ensuring fruit is presented in tip top condition. Individual fruits, by their nature, vary in size and weight further compounding the problems of maintaining accurate and consistent pack weights.

But it isn't just product giveaway that can eat into your profits. Over weight packs cost more to transport, especially via air freight, further adversely affecting profits and endorsing the importance of yield control management.

Effective Yield Control leads directly to:

- Reduced giveaway
- Improved quality
- Improved productivity
- Reduced waste
- Improved transport costs
- Increased profits

The key to successful Yield Control is to implement a system that is easy to use by operatives, yet provides management with comprehensive real time pack weight data from the pack-house floor.

The Marco Yield Control Module has been specifically developed to provide comprehensive data that allows you to measure and control your packing process. A key advantage is that it can be implemented as a standalone module within your existing pack-house structure and will provide a rapid return on investment.

How does it work...?

The Marco system uses our operator-friendly LineMaster workstations that de-skill the manual packing process. The simple-to-use traffic light system guides operators as they pack, ensuring individual target weights are kept within very close tolerances. The clever part of the system is the automatic optimisation (AO) software operating quietly in the background. This continually monitors pack weights at individual stations and adjusts target weights to keep the average pack weight right on target. The operators are oblivious to these subtle changes and continue to pack consistently to the 'green light'. If target weights do deviate outside standard pre-set limits, the supervisor is immediately alerted so that rapid remedial action can be taken.

The module automatically produces accurate yield data over user-defined periods by batch run and total production. Key recorded pack-house data includes:

- Operator ID
- Number of packs completed per unit time/per operator
- Total quantity of product allocated to any particular line
- Actual amount packed at each workstation
- Pack weight trends by operator
- Rapid access to electronic traceability
- Yield data by batch run/total production