

DuPont Qualicon BAX[®] System

CUSTOMER PROFILE



Faster results mean faster release of products for Chr. Hansen

CHR HANSEN

Chr. Hansen is an international organization providing natural ingredients, such as cultures, enzymes and colors to the food, pharmaceutical, nutritional and agricultural industries. They are the leading manufacturer of enzymes and dairy cultures used in the production of high quality fermented milk and cheese products, supplying some of the largest dairies in the world.

“Food safety is a cornerstone of Chr. Hansen. If we make a mistake, it influences the rest of the food chain, as production is based on our ingredients,” according to Hanne Benn Thomsen, director of global regulations, environment and quality.

In the laboratory at the Chr. Hansen A/S site at Graasten, Denmark, the BAX[®] system has been used since October 2006 to analyze enzymes used in the manufacture of cheese. Yeasts and molds can present a particular problem due to the nature of the Chr. Hansen products and their use as raw materials by many customers. Their previous, culture based method took five days to provide results. They needed a system that would give faster results, so they looked at the BAX[®] system. Now they can measure yeast and mold levels in just two days.

Faster results have had positive knock-on effects for the business. It is very important that Chr. Hansen customers receive products shortly after placing an order. The BAX[®] system has reduced yeast and mold turnaround time from five days to only two for most products. This is really important because it means they can release products for sale more quickly. It has also reduced the amount they need to hold in stock at any one time, which in turn allows them to provide customers with a better service while reducing storage costs.

It took some careful planning and modification of sample preparation with Oxoid to adopt this new method, but Chr. Hansen is very pleased. They have found the BAX[®] system to be faster and more sensitive than their previous method. In addition, they have saved time in the laboratory by reducing the need for media preparation, and they have reduced waste, which is good for the environment.

Having experienced the benefits of the BAX[®] system in the area of yeast and mold testing, they began using it for *Listeria* and *Salmonella* testing. Now the laboratory is working to expand the BAX[®] system potential and implement it in other areas within Chr. Hansen.

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