

Increased accountability, enhanced performance...and savings

Christian Berenger, business development director at Auto Time Solutions, explains how time and attendance technology can help contractors gain a competitive edge by achieving cost and time savings.

In an industry in which contractors must operate within tight profit margins, finding ways to provide a high level of service at a lower cost is critical to business success. With the workforce representing the largest controllable expense for all cleaning contractors, an automated time and attendance system can help unearth cost savings and have a positive impact on efficiency and productivity.

The latest solutions can now be integrated with many data capture methods such as biometric handscan readers and web devices like smartphones and tablets, which communicate using wireless GPS technology and cloud-hosted platforms to create a comprehensive management solution that enables contractors to confidently retain control of a geographically diverse workforce.

Centralising the management of remote workers and generating accurate attendance data provides managers with meaningful intelligence which they can utilise to make informed strategic decisions based on reliable data rather than instinct. This provides contractors with greater control over the efficiency of their service and enables them to confirm that workers have turned up to client sites on time for their shift, adding value to contracts by providing transparency to clients showing that service level agreements have been fulfilled.

The ability to track staff performance and determine that employees have worked their contracted hours heightens the integrity of staff members, leading to a more productive working environment.

Eradicate fraud and time theft

Time and attendance software linked to biometric handscan readers is ideally suited to the contract cleaning industry because it provides a means of enhancing security on client sites and paints a clear, accurate picture of an employee's attendance and punctuality.

In an industry that experiences a high turnover of staff, handscan terminals help simplify the clocking-in process and alleviate any human errors caused by language barriers and difficulties in deciphering illegible handwriting. By accurately verifying the identification of each worker, biometric terminals enable managers to immediately identify workers that fail to arrive on time, and promptly cover any absence before the client experiences a downturn in service.

Streamlining the payroll process

The time and cost savings yielded from an automated system become clear during the

payroll process. Integration with payroll software makes manual timesheets obsolete and saves significant administration time typically spent calculating workers' hours and pay rates, releasing time to focus on core areas of the business.

The accuracy of the payroll process is



Christian Berenger,
business
development
director at Auto
Time Solutions.

subsequently enhanced, with workers only paid for 'actual hours' worked, pay rates applied with consistency and the threat of time fraud, caused by buddy punching and human errors, is removed entirely from the equation.

This reduces the likelihood of overpayments occurring and enables contractors to continuously monitor labour costs and the bottom line whilst employees benefit from knowing that their pay packet will always be correct.

Safeguarding workers through accurate data

Over-reliance on manual timesheets can compromise the safety of remote workers because they are open to genuine mistakes

or fraudulent activity. Replacing manual timesheets with a modern time and attendance system enables contractors to know for certain who was on site at any given time and demonstrate their duty of care. This brings benefits to front line workers as they know their movements are being monitored so will no longer feel isolated in their role.

At a time when the contract cleaning industry is confined by tight margins, a time and attendance system can help contractors operate more profitably by having tighter control of labour costs.

By creating a streamlined process, contractors can unearth time and cost savings,

helping them to optimise their service delivery and carve out a competitive edge.

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