Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is eBacMap?

   ○ eBacMap is a cloud based environmental monitoring program that helps food manufacturers manage test data, responses to non-conforming results, and compliance with regulatory mandates for recording the presence of food pathogens. Our software was designed by Food Microbiologists as a way to make their record keeping more functional, efficient and effective in not only identifying where pathogens might arise, but in helping determine and address the root cause of persistent problem areas. Their clients were so pleased with the peace of mind brought be application that we decided to offer it to the food manufacturing industry.

2. How does eBacMap help with visualizing trends?

   ○ eBacMap offers two different ways of visualizing your testing data. **One key feature of eBacMap is a dynamic heat map** of your processing facility on which testing swab sites are marked and associated with testing results. The results populate with a color coded marking to indicate whether a result returned conforming or non-conforming. eBacMap's patent pending process illustrates the results in location and over time enabling you to see correlations of positive results that may arise throughout your plant, allowing you to better identify root causes. **A second visualization tool are innovative trending graphs** that highlight information that is actionable and important to food safety professionals.

3. Which pathogens does eBacMap track?

   ○ eBacMap can track any pathogen or data point that a customer defines. Customers typically track occurrences of Salmonella, Listeria, and Ecoli, and some of their subtypes. However, the software can easily be customized to track any data point including allergens, air quality, water quality, or any other measured result.

4. Is eBacMap easy to implement?

   ○ Yes! eBacMap is very easy to implement. All you need is a map or photograph of your facility or equipment. No expensive consultants or fees are needed to help with onboarding. We offer several easy to follow videos that explain how to set up a new account and our client services team is available to answer any questions you may have.

5. How does eBacMap help my company save money?

   ○ eBacMap provides a return in a number of ways. First, it brings efficiency back to the lab. It eliminates reliance on loose papers and one-off spreadsheets. Information is organized and centralized. Second, food safety and quality control teams can work better together focusing their efforts and resources on specific problem areas. The cumulative effect of this is lower downtime and rework. But most importantly is the reduced risks and costs of product recall, both in risk to consumers, financial impact to your company, and potential damage to reputation and brand.

6. Who typically uses eBacMap software?

   ○ eBacMap is usually used by members of a company's food safety or corrective action teams, including Production, Quality Control, Sanitation, and Executive stakeholders. By using maps and photographs of non-conforming locations, eBacMap can visually identify specific problem areas. The visual platform allows easy communication across shifts and even language barriers so that all team members are aligned in terms of where problems may arise and the response..

7. How much does eBacMap cost?

   ○ eBacMap is offered on a yearly subscription basis. The subscription for a client's first facility is $2,000 and each subsequent facility is $1,500 each. Each facility can have multiple maps and users at no additional fee. This is a flat subscription fee. There are no additional fees for adding swab sites or loading maps.

8. How do I load data?

   ○ Test results and other data can be easily added on a one-off basis directly into the application. Subscribers with a lot of data can also upload an excel document with bulk test results.

9. Which regulatory requirements does eBacMap address?

   ○ Tracking the occurrence of pathogens in food manufacturing facilities is mandated by the USDA (Listeria Rule, 9 CFR Part 43) and the FDA (Food Safety Modernization Act, 21 CFR Part 117).The Food Safety Modernization Act, subpart F requires that facility records include plant name, address, date and time of testing, chain of control, and actual observations. eBacMap helps organize testing data to comply with those agencies' requirements. eBacMap also keeps information readily available and accessible (well within the FSMA mandate of 24 hours) in the event of a government or customer audit.

10. Who receives notification of positive test results?

   ○ Subscribers can customize who receives notification of non-conforming test results and what criteria might trigger notification. For instance, Quality Control, Production, and Sanitiation team members might receive notice for any non-conforming result so that they can respond appropriately. Senior managment might only recieve notifications when a series of non-conforming results exceed a particular threshold.

11. Do I have to use a particular lab to test my results?

   ○ No! eBacMap is completely lab agnostic. Some subscribers use onsite lab facilities to test results while others use outside consultants. It doesn't matter where the data comes from. eBacMap is strictly a provider of software solutions. We can provide referrals to labs and consultants to help with your environmental management program.