Cheese Co-Manufacturing Technical Manager

Dairy processing

Job title	Cheese Co-Manufacturing Technical Manager
Department	Dairy processing
Reports to	Site Director or Head of Operations (brand owner)
Direct reports	None
Location	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*
Contract type	*[Permanent / fixed-term / other]*
Salary and benefits	*[To be confirmed by the employer]*

Job purpose

Represents a dairy brand owner on site at a third-party cheese manufacturer, making sure the brand's products are made to recipe, specification and contract terms. Acts as the day-to-day link between the two businesses, drives quality, efficiency and capital improvements, and helps the partnership grow.

Key responsibilities

Partnership and contract management

- Serve as the day-to-day operational contact between the brand owner and the contract manufacturer
- Monitor performance against the production agreement and resolve issues quickly
- Keep both businesses informed on production, quality and supply matters
- Spot new opportunities and risks and bring them to both parties
- Build trust with the manufacturer's managers and teams while working on site every day

Production and quality control

- Make sure products are made to approved recipes, processes and specifications
- Review production and quality data and follow up deviations
- Support HACCP and food safety requirements for the brand's products
- Lead investigations into complaints and non-conformances and agree corrective actions
- Advise on the release, rework or disposal of non-conforming product

Process and technology development

- Identify and lead improvements in yield, efficiency and quality across the value chain
- Support new product trials and scale-up at the partner site
- Share technical knowledge and best practice in cheese making
- Track new technology that could improve performance

Capital projects

- Plan and deliver capital projects on brand-owned equipment at the partner site
- Prepare business cases, budgets and timelines for investment

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- Oversee installation, commissioning and handover of new equipment

Reporting and strategy

- Report on volumes, yields, quality and costs to the brand owner's management
- Contribute to the business plan and growth strategy for domestic production
- Travel to head office and other group sites as needed

Qualifications and experience

Essential

- Qualification in dairy technology, food science or equivalent
- Experience in cheese production and quality, typically 5 years or more
- Experience of planning and delivering capital projects
- Proven leadership and influencing skills
- Strong commercial awareness

Desirable

- Experience of a co-manufacturing or contract manufacturing relationship
- Experience with brined or semi-hard cheese varieties
- Lean or continuous improvement training

Skills and attributes

- Diplomacy and relationship building
- Influencing without direct authority
- Excellent written and spoken communication in the business language
- Technical problem solving
- Working independently
- Persistence and a sense of urgency

Measures of success

- Products meeting recipe and specification
- Yield and cost per tonne against target
- Customer complaints linked to the partner site
- Capital projects delivered on time and within budget
- Compliance with the production agreement

Working conditions and safety

Based full-time at a third-party cheese plant, with PPE and hygiene rules in production areas. Some national and international travel.

- Follow health and safety rules and safe systems of work, and wear the correct PPE
- Follow food safety, hygiene, HACCP and quality procedures at all times
- Report hazards, accidents, near misses and concerns promptly

This job description outlines the main duties of the role. It is not a complete list, and the employer may update it as the business changes, in consultation with the jobholder.

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