

Fast-Track LIMS Implementation for a Pet Food Manufacturer

Pet Food Manufacturing · August 13, 2026 · Matt Citardi

PLATFORM

eLIMS SaaS

SCOPE

Single-site QC implementation, live in 4 months

ROLE

Vendor PM, owning full implementation lifecycle

SPEED

< 4 months from contract to go-live

01 / CLIENT SNAPSHOT

A major pet food manufacturer needed to move quality control off Excel spreadsheets and paper-based result tracking and onto a validated LIMS, with a clear priority: get core QC functionality live fast, without over-engineering the system. I managed this engagement as Vendor PM, owning it end-to-end from contract through go-live.

02 / THE CHALLENGE

Unlike a multi-country standardization effort, this project's challenge was speed and discipline. The client needed:

- Full sample management and result tracking to replace manual, paper-based QC processes
- A sampling protocol structured around their specific internal QC and micro sampling plan for in-process and line testing, not a generic out-of-the-box workflow
- Reliable OOS (out-of-specification) alerting, since a missed or delayed alert could mean product shipping that wasn't safe for the end consumer
- A system live and functioning in QC within a tight four-month window from contract signature

03 / APPROACH

The defining factor in this project's speed was the client's own team. Their project team had clear ownership from day one and were fully invested in defining requirements, scoping, and UAT, which meant decisions got made quickly and didn't stall waiting on stakeholder alignment. That level of engagement is often the real difference between a fast implementation and a slow one, more than any feature of the software itself.

On the technical side, I kept customization to a minimum, deliberately applying a KISS approach rather than over-building. The system was configured to match the client's actual QC and micro sampling plan for in-process and line testing samples, rather than forcing their process to conform to a generic template.

Case Study (continued)

Core scope included:

- End-to-end sample management configuration
- OOS alerting tied directly to product release, preventing release of any product that failed to meet safety specifications
- A sampling protocol matched to the client's internal QC/micro sampling plan for in-process and line testing
- Minimal, targeted customization following a KISS approach
- Full contract-to-go-live project management

04 / RESULTS

- Live in QC within 4 months of contract signature, replacing manual Excel and paper-based tracking entirely
- Reliable OOS alerting in place to help ensure no product shipped that didn't meet safety specifications
- A sampling protocol precisely matched to the client's real QC/micro sampling workflow, rather than a generic system requiring workarounds
- A lean, minimally customized system, avoiding the scope creep that often drags LIMS projects well past their target timeline

Why It Mattered

Fast, focused implementations depend on two things going right at once: a disciplined, KISS approach to scope, and a client team that's genuinely engaged in the process. This project had both. The result was a validated LIMS live in QC in under four months, protecting product safety for the client's end consumers from day one, without the delays that come from over-customization or unclear ownership on the client side.