

Shaw Industries Group, Inc.

Fast Facts

Company

Shaw Industries Group, Inc.

- Largest flooring manufacturer in the world
- Over 20,000 associates with facilities across 8 countries
- \$4.8 billion in annual sales

Industry

Household durables manufacturing

Challenges

- Providing proof of compliance and maintaining visibility geographically diverse global operation
- Conducting efficient, comprehensive physical audits and maintaining paper reporting records
- Achieving the same high standards for facilities added through acquisition

Solutions

- Expert inspection and testing services from Pye Barker Fire & Safety, Inc.
- BuildingReports' solutions: ScanSeries®, Embedded Codes & Standards, and DocDrive

Results

- Achieved objective evidence of compliance
- Reduced costs and increased efficiency
- Improved business visibility and budgeting foresight
- Reduced liability



Company Profile

Shaw Industries Group, Inc. is a wholly owned subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. with more than \$4.8 billion (USD) in annual sales and more than 20,000 associates worldwide. Shaw is headquartered in Dalton, Georgia, with salespeople and/or offices located throughout the U.S., Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, India, Mexico, Singapore, United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom.

Shaw offers a diverse portfolio of carpet, hardwood, laminate, resilient, tile & stone flooring products, synthetic turf and other specialty items for residential and commercial markets worldwide. In 2016, Shaw was recognized on *Forbes Magazine's* "America's Best Large Employers" list.

The organization is also committed to what they term next generation manufacturing. To support the initiative, Shaw has invested over \$1 billion in new equipment, new technology and new processes over the past few years in order to keep their operations on the leading edge of next-generation manufacturing.

Challenge

As the largest manufacturer and supplier of flooring in the world, Shaw must maintain a massive and geographically diverse manufacturing operation. If maintaining and servicing the sheer volume of fire and life safety devices in complex manufacturing facilities spread throughout the country wasn't challenging enough, the logistical challenges of conducting physical audits and maintaining comprehensive paper reporting records complicates the task exponentially.

"From a global standpoint, I know the status of every device in every facility Pye Barker services. I have a complete picture, and that's critical for a global company like Shaw."

– Jeff Romine, Shaw Industries

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“BuildingReports helps take the human element out of the equation. If a device hasn't been touched you're going to know about it.”

– **Jason DeMent**, Pye Barker

Shaw owns and operates multiple facilities (manufacturing, distribution and construction/installation) across 29 different states, with manufacturing plants located in Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia. The facilities range from a few thousand square feet to multiple acres under roof in size, depending on the facility and operations.

“A real challenge for Shaw is that a large majority of our facilities are a result of an acquisition,” said Jeff Romine, Senior EHS Manager for Shaw’s Corporate Risk Management team. “When Shaw constructs a facility, we are able to strategically engineer the installation locations of life saving devices. In the event of an acquisition, Shaw must locate and document all devices for audit purposes. Through the use of the BuildingReports program, Pye Barker has taken device accountability to the next level.”

“When Shaw conducted safety audits, we are repeatedly searching for paper documents and the associates responsible for inspection reporting. Previously, our process was very time consuming and manual. Our records were kept in various file cabinets and desk drawers. Neither of which guarantee record accuracy, therefore compromising our safety program,” said Romine.

Paper documentation is a common challenge among risk management professionals, however, during an audit, Romine was introduced to Pye Barker’s paperless reporting system and he realized this could be a great fit for all of Shaw’s facilities.

Solution

Shaw places significant emphasis on driving innovation through its inclusion in the business model, especially when it comes to safeguarding Shaw’s people and property. As Romine learned more about how Pye Barker leveraged the BuildingReports mobile bar-coding inspection process and web-based reporting, the more he knew the organization’s desire to adopt cutting-edge technology could help them ensure the health and safety of Shaw’s employees.

“BuildingReports helps take the human element out of the equation,” said Jason DeMent, regional manager for Pye Barker. “If a device hasn’t been touched you’re going to know about it.”

“The greatest thing about BuildingReports is you know 100% that all the devices were tested,” DeMent explained. “As hard as we work to provide the highest level of service available, being able to provide visibility to the complete inventory of every device in each facility, who made it, when it was installed and where it is in the facility generates even more confidence for our customers.”

“When Shaw associates review what we’re doing at a plant level, the combination of Pye Barker and BuildingReports is saving us time and money.”

– **Jeff Romine**, Shaw Industries

Romine interjected, “From a global standpoint, I know the status of every device in every facility Pye Barker services. I have a complete picture, and that’s critical for a global company like Shaw.”

“Not only can I access it online remotely anytime, even on the weekends, but I can quickly get the information I need and get a deeper dive than would ever be possible with paper,” Romine continued. “When you manage as many facilities as we have, we need quick access to information and inspection results.”

In addition, Pye Barker uses other BuildingReports services to help reduce liability and improve EHS visibility into the status of Shaw’s plans and facilities. Embedded Codes and Standards provides verbatim NFPA code references next to device discrepancies in the report. DocDrive also provides greater intelligence by way of photographic evidence by allowing field technicians to upload pictures of damaged devices or potential issues that may influence the online reporting.

Results

Achieving Objective Evidence

By using the bar code scanning system, every device inspected includes a time and date stamp of when that device was scanned, who scanned it and what the test results were. In addition, the system tracks and records what device deficiencies were reported and whether or not repairs or corrections were made. This allows Shaw to produce the objective evidence required as proof of compliance.

Saving Time & Money

“When Shaw associates review what we’re doing at a plant level, the combination of Pye Barker and BuildingReports is saving us time and money,” says Romine. “Pye Barker is now taking over some of the tasks that have been completed by the maintenance staff previously, freeing associates’ time for more critical operational tasks. We have seen a savings of approximately 2 days of labor per month for our maintenance department by outsourcing our inspections in one of our newest facilities.”

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Vision & Foresight

There are numerous advantages in having wider and deeper visibility to operations, including the ability to make better, more informed decisions. One of Shaw's plant managers found that having this visibility helped in avoiding large, unexpected expenses.

"I have heard from one of our plant managers that he is using BuildingReports to budget six year service on fire extinguishers," explains Romine. "For example, he may have 400 extinguishers in a facility that are required to be tested every 6 years. Now he can space those inspections out over two to three years (by doing some earlier) and will not have to absorb all the cost at one time. That allows Shaw to more effectively maintain our fire protection and better control our costs."

Peace of Mind

While difficult to quantify, Romine explained, "Pye Barker brought innovation to an industry where most providers have not. This innovation has given Shaw a sense of confidence and peace of mind we have not received in the past. The BuildingReports portal has given Shaw the assurance our data is accurate and auditable... thus, reducing our risk and liability."

"Through the use of the BuildingReports program, Pye Barker has taken device accountability to the next level!"

– **Jeff Romine**, Shaw Industries

For more information

about BuildingReports' web-based fire and life safety inspection-reporting solutions, call 770-495-1993, email sales@buildingreports.com or visit www.buildingreports.com.



About BuildingReports

Building-safety compliance is critical to service companies, building owners, and fire and safety officials who are charged with safeguarding occupants. BuildingReports' mobile and online inspection reporting tools enable inspectors to gather data on fire and life safety devices quickly to ensure that these devices are working properly and meet code requirements and to identify actions needed to meet compliance through easily verifiable inspection reports. With over 3,250,000 inspection reports to date, 550,000 plus buildings with over 180,000,000 devices represented, and more than 800 inspection companies in its network, BuildingReports has earned its reputation as the most trusted name in compliance reporting. Learn more at www.buildingreports.com.