6 Common Bottlenecks in Lab Workflows –

How to Solve Them in Empower CDS

Practical Solutions for faster,
more efficient & compliant lab work

Empower CDS made simple, structured, and compliant.

labwissen

Introduction

Let's Pause for a Moment!

Lab teams often face **inefficient workflows** that slow down routine work. Analysts spend time on complex workarounds due to limited knowledge of Empower CDS functions, which can lead to errors, deviations, and stress.

This guide highlights **6 common problems labs face** and provides easy, clear solutions to make workflows **faster, more efficient, and less error-prone**.

Bottleneck 1:
Unconfident Analysts & Lack of Basic Empower Skills

The Problem

Many labs face a hidden bottleneck: analysts who are unsure about even routine tasks in Empower CDS. Common challenges include:

- Lack of understanding of Empower basics, even for everyday analyses
- Fear of clicking the wrong button and causing mistakes;
- Slow work due to hesitation or repeated double-checking;
- Increased stress and reduced confidence in handling data;
- Knowledge often passed informally from experienced analysts to newcomers, leaving gaps and inconsistent workflows;
- No proper structured training, so analysts struggle to perform routine tasks efficiently.

Impact

Analysts who aren't confident with Empower slow down lab workflows and increase the chance of errors. Stress levels rise, mistakes occur more often, and compliance risks increase due to inconsistent knowledge transfer.

The Solution

- Provide structured, hands-on training covering Empower basics and everyday tasks;
- Build confidence by letting analysts practice real workflows with guided support;
- Ensure knowledge transfer is consistent and structured, closing gaps and standardizing workflows.

How LabWissen Can Support

- **Empower Beginner Training** (1 day) – teaches the essential Empower functions and builds a solid foundation for confident, routine lab work.
- **Empower Analyst Training** (2 days, GMP-focused) – suitable for beginners and analysts who want deeper structure. Covers all basics for routine analysis plus GMP-focused workflows and integration best practices, helping analysts work faster, more confidently, and fully compliant.

www.labwissen.com

Bottleneck 2:
Processing Methods That Lead to Errors & Manual Integration

The Problem

Analysts often struggle with setting up processing methods in Empower CDS. Common issues include:

- Incorrect integration settings, leading to manual integration and compliance risk;
- Not understanding how to set integration parameters;
- Limited knowledge of processing method functions (Limits, Impurity, Suitability, Groups);
- Fear of adjusting settings and accidentally breaking something;
- Complex workarounds for calculations;
- Mistakes causing deviations and errors.

The Solution

- Understand each parameter and function of a processing method from A to Z;
- Optimize processing methods for each analysis using the full potential of Empower CDS;
- Hands-on learning with real data builds confidence, reduces mistakes, and ensures compliance.

How LabWissen Can Support

- **Empower Expert Training** — Learn to build advanced processing methods and handle complex evaluation scenarios.
- **Processing Design Workshop** — Create processing methods for your own analyses with a practical approach for future adjustments.

Impact

Slow workflows, increased errors, and stress. Inefficient processing methods reduce confidence and consistency in lab results.

www.labwissen.com

Bottleneck 3:
Lost Time & Compliance Risks in Data Review

The Problem

Many QC and GMP labs still perform data review in Empower without a structured, repeatable workflow. Challenges include:

- Compliance risks due to unclear or inconsistent review procedures;
- Long time spent searching for specific values, events, or changes;
- Limited understanding of audit trails and where to find information;
- Missed deviations or data inconsistencies;
- Slow, exhausting, and error-prone review cycles;
- High pressure on reviewers fearing critical data might be overlooked.

Impact

Unstructured review slows approvals, increases errors, and creates stress. During audits, gaps become visible, leading to preventable findings.

The Solution

- Learn how Empower handles data internally, including Oracle database principles;
- Understand audit trails deeply and interpret them in a GMP-compliant way;
- Learn to create and to use view filters to surface the right information quickly and consistently;
- Define step-by-step data review workflows for all reviewers to follow.

How LabWissen Can Support

- **Data Review Training** — Understand Oracle fundamentals, audit trails, and view filters to perform fast, confident, compliant reviews;
- **Data Review Workflow Workshop** — Design a tailored, GMP-compliant workflow ready for immediate implementation in your lab.
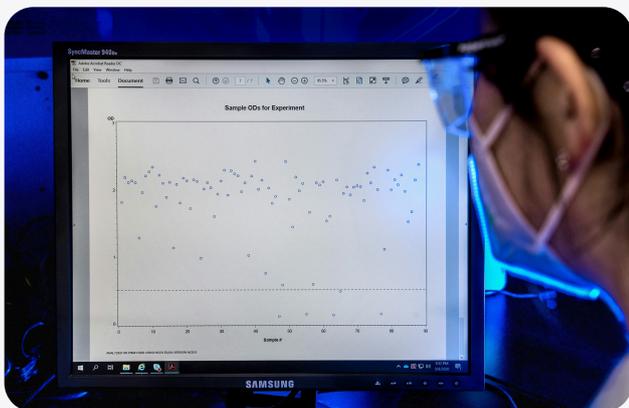
www.labwissen.com

Bottleneck 4:
Missed Deviations & Unstructured Trend Analysis

The Problem

Many labs still perform trend analysis in Excel or other manual systems rather than using Empower CDS fully. Common issues include:

- Trend workflows are inefficient, time-consuming, and error-prone;
- Out-of-trend (OOT) and out-of-specification (OOS) results are often overlooked;
- Lack of understanding on how to calculate alert and action limits;
- No structured approach to monitor trends proactively;
- High risk of mistakes, slow reviews, and stress for analysts.

The Solution

- Use the Limits Tab in Processing Methods to define alert and action limits;
- Automatically flag OOT results to anticipate potential OOS;
- Create a consistent, structured trend monitoring approach;
- Visualize results with control charts for actionable insights;
- Reduce human error, save time, and build confidence in trend analysis.

Impact

Manual or unstructured trend analysis slows lab workflows, increases errors, and makes compliance monitoring difficult. Labs cannot predict potential deviations or respond proactively, affecting product quality and regulatory compliance.

How LabWissen Can Support

Trend Analysis Workshop – Build a complete trend analysis system in your Empower environment using your own data.

www.labwissen.com

Bottleneck 5:
Complex Calculations & Underutilized Custom Fields

The Problem

Many labs still rely on Excel for calculations instead of fully leveraging Empower custom fields:

- Calculations outside Empower are time-consuming, error-prone, and difficult to track;
- Workflows become overly complex with too many steps and multiple software tools;
- Analysts often don't understand existing custom fields or their structure;
- Adjustments require excessive effort, slowing down processes;
- Limited knowledge on creating, managing, and optimizing custom fields leads to inefficient workflows

The Solution

- Learn what custom fields are, how they work, and how to build them efficiently;
- Simplify complex analyses by consolidating calculations in Empower;
- Automate calculations directly in Empower wherever possible;
- Understand and document existing fields to reduce errors when workflows change;
- Build your own custom fields database to maintain a clear structure and speed up the implementation of new calculations.

Impact

Inefficient or incorrect use of custom fields slows analysis, increases errors, and wastes time. Complex workflows reduce confidence in results.

How LabWissen Can Support

- **Custom Fields Training** — Learn to create, manage, and apply custom fields to optimize analysis, automate calculations, and simplify workflows.
- **Custom Field Design Workshop** — Build custom fields for your specific analyses, get ready-to-use calculations, and establish a structured, repeatable approach you can apply to future methods.

www.labwissen.com

Bottleneck 6:
Complex Reports That Hide Critical Information

The Problem

Many labs struggle to create effective report methods in Empower CDS:

- Limited understanding of how report methods are built or adjusted;
- Reports are too complex, unstructured, or fail to display necessary information;
- Data review becomes complicated and time-consuming;
- Compliance risks increase if critical information is hidden or overlooked;
- Lack of knowledge of report functionalities and possibilities.

The Solution

- Learn how to build and adjust report methods that are structured, clear, and compliant;
- Focus on displaying all necessary information efficiently;
- Create ready-to-use reports tailored to your lab's analysis needs;
- Use electronic signatures for GMP compliance.

TRAINING

How LabWissen Can Support

- **Reports Training** — Hands-on creation and customization of reports in Empower, including electronic signatures.
- **Report Design Workshop** — Develop a tailored summary report method, giving you a ready-to-use, compliant template that is customized to your lab's analyses.

Impact

Inefficient reports slow data review, increase errors, and compromise GMP compliance. Analysts spend unnecessary time navigating reports instead of interpreting data.

www.labwissen.com

Conclusion

Even small changes can have a big impact on efficiency, compliance, and team confidence. Addressing these **6 bottlenecks** allows labs to:

- Reclaim time and reduce manual work
- Minimize errors and compliance risks
- Simplify complex workflows
- Build confidence across the team in using Empower CDS
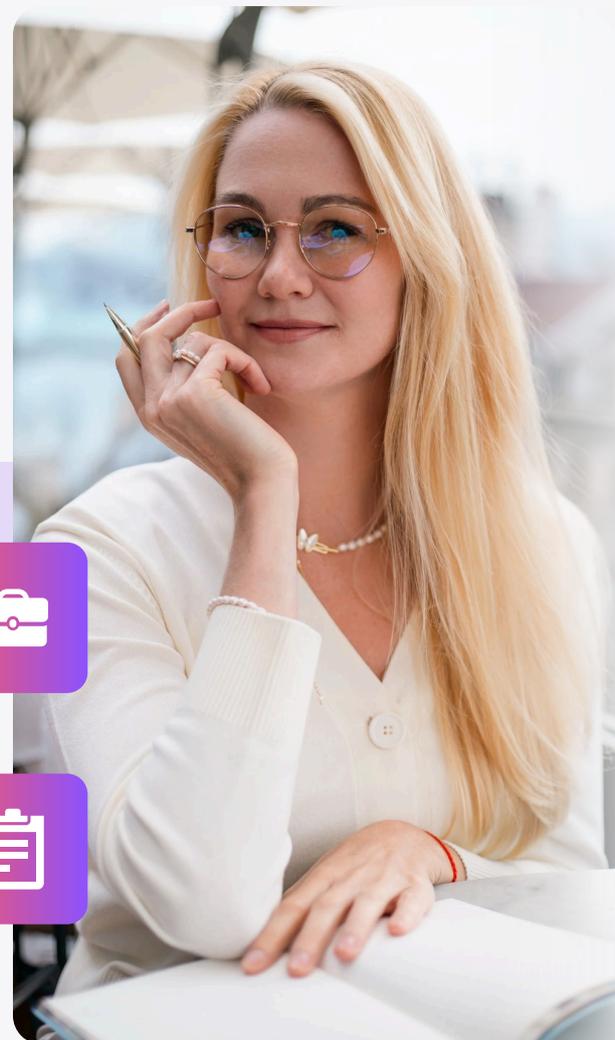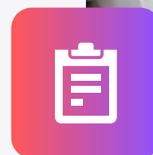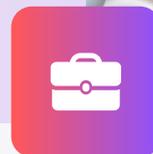- Focus on value-added work

Get Started Today

LabWissen helps your team apply Empower CDS functions directly to your real data and workflows through tailored trainings and workshops.

💬 Request a **free 30-minute consultation** to discuss your lab's challenges and explore practical solutions.

📩 Schedule a session here: https://calendly.com/inessa-peters-labwissen/empower-support-labwissen

QR Code for Quick Access:

Let's make your Empower workflows efficient, compliant, and stress-free — starting now.

www.labwissen.com