Creating and Setting Up Collection Templates in ElcoMaster

Whether you are checking climate conditions or profile, surface cleanliness or thickness, or testing coating adhesion or gloss - how many readings, and where they are taken, are usually defined in advance.

It may be that a specified number of readings must be taken over a given surface area, or on each individual section or structure. If you are on a production line or at goods inwards inspection, each unique component may have specific locations that require special attention.

But how do you know what to inspect, where to inspect it, and how many readings to take?

Usually you follow a drawing or work instructions, taking and recording a reading each time "x marks the spot".

By using ElcoMaster's collection template feature with any Bluetooth enabled Elcometer gauge, ElcoMaster automatically guides the user exactly where to take the next measurement, automatically storing each set of values on the drawing itself, which can be displayed in an inspection report - all at the press of a button.

All you need to do is:

- Create your template;
- Transfer it to your mobile device;
- Select which project or folder you want to store the readings in;
- And follow the on-screen guide, taking measurements with your Bluetooth connected Elcometer gauge.

When you are finished taking the measurements, to generate your report, simply press and hold on your batch. Tap the three dots at the bottom right of your screen, and generate the report. Fast and incredibly powerful, ElcoMaster is free to download from the Google Play or Apple App stores, allowing you to generate professional inspection reports before you've even left the inspection.

So, how do you create your collection template?

To design your template, open ElcoMaster on your PC, which is free to download from the Elcometer website. Open the Library tab, and click "New" in the top left of the screen, followed by "Collect Design". Give your template a name, and a brief description, then click "next".

You will now be asked to select what measurement batch type you'll be using - such as dry film thickness, surface profile, or coating adhesion to name a few.

You can then choose up to three measurement parameters to display and record. For example dew point, relative humidity, or delta T from climatic conditions. Or if using the scanning probe with your coating thickness gauge, when in scan mode you can record the highest and lowest value, alongside the average reading for each scan, by selecting thickness.

If you've selected your three parameters, and realised that you should have chosen a different one; simply deselect one, before choosing another.

Once you have chosen the measurement parameters, press the "next" button. You will now be asked to select the image you wish to collect against.

This could be a close up photograph, schematic, a detailed CAD drawing of the product, an aerial map or photograph of the structure – whatever works best for you.

Click the "Browse" button, select your image, then press "open". If you've chosen a large image file, ElcoMaster will ask you if you want to reduce the image resolution to improve the performance - as large file sizes will dramatically affect the measurement speed of your mobile device. Click "Yes" or "No" depending on your preference, followed by the "next" button.

Now, specify the number of readings that will be taken in the area being inspected; and input any high, low, or nominal limits you wish to apply. If you are not applying any limits or wish to use the limits set on the gauge, leave them blank and press the "next" button.

The setup wizard will now ask if you want ElcoMaster to prompt you upon completing a set of readings before starting the next item; and if you want a new batch to be created automatically after each set of measurements has been completed. Once you have answered them, click "Finish".

ElcoMaster will then open the Design Collect screen, which displays the image, and on the left a number of blue squares which represent your readings. These numbered squares will indicate where you should measure, and in what order. So, simply click, drag, and drop the reading indicators onto the image in the required location, and in order of inspection to design your template.

Depending on the size and nature of your image, you may need to resize your reading indicator squares to fit. Simply click and drag on the square control points to do this. No matter how small your reading indicator is, when it comes to inspecting using the template, ElcoMaster will zoom in to the reading location automatically, so it's always clear where you need to measure.

If you right-click on a reading indicator you can change the zoom amount, and delete the square.

If at any point you realise you need to take more readings, simply click on "Properties" at the top of the screen, and you can change any of collection template's settings. You can even change the background image if you need to.

When you've finished designing your template, just click "Save" in the top left-hand corner, and close the Design Collect window. If you ever need to amend your collection template at a later date, simply right-click on its name, and select "Edit".

It's now possible to follow your collection template using live readings on ElcoMaster for PC, which is perfect for use in the office, on a production line, or at a QA station.

But what if you're inspecting out on-site? Well, using the cloud feature, you can send your collection template to the ElcoMaster App. Simply copy your template to the Cloud Collects folder on the PC, and it will appear on your mobile device in the Library tab, which is located on the ElcoMaster Home screen.

To display and follow your collection template using live readings in the ElcoMaster App, once you've created a batch for your readings to be stored in; in the top left you'll see the live readings tab.

Simply tap on the "i" button next to Statistics, choose Collects, and select the template you wish to follow. If you've set-up any limits within the template, any unacceptable readings will be displayed in red.

Furthermore, you can include your completed collection template in your finished inspection report. Collects can be selected for inclusion in the settings menu, located on the ElcoMaster Home screen.

A collection template is only a small part of what you could include when creating an inspection report using ElcoMaster. In the next part, we'll explain how to generate inspection reports.

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