Production Manager – with Spray Dryer experience

Richmond Dairies Pty Ltd – Casino, NSW

Richmond Dairies is seeking an experienced Production Manager with practical spray drying experience to lead our production operations at our dairy manufacturing facility in Casino, NSW. This is a management-focused role with responsibility for people, production planning, safety, compliance, quality, performance and continuous improvement, with particular emphasis on our powder and spray drying operations.

We are looking for a strong production leader who can manage teams and operational outcomes while also bringing enough hands-on spray dryer knowledge to understand the process, challenge performance, support troubleshooting and build capability within the production team.

About Us

At Richmond Dairies, we manufacture a diverse range of dairy products across powder, liquid, frozen and butter applications for domestic and international customers. We value safety, quality, accountability, teamwork and continuous improvement and are committed to strengthening the performance and capability of our manufacturing operations.

About the Role

Reporting to the Senior Management Executive, the Production Manager will lead production teams and take responsibility for the safe, efficient and compliant delivery of production across Richmond Dairies and the Fast Freeze Technology Factory. The role will have a strong focus on spray drying and powder production, while maintaining broader accountability for production planning, people leadership, operational performance and cross-functional coordination.

You will be expected to spend time on the production floor, understand plant and process performance, work closely with operators and supervisors, and use your spray drying experience to support stable operation, troubleshooting, optimisation and continuous improvement. This is not primarily an operator position; it is a leadership role for someone who understands the process well enough to lead it effectively.

Key Responsibilities

- Lead, manage and develop production teams, ensuring appropriate staffing, clear accountability and strong performance outcomes.
- Own production planning, including production schedules, ingredient requirements, liquid stock management and coordination of manufacturing priorities.
- Provide day-to-day leadership across spray drying and broader production operations to achieve safe, stable, efficient and consistent output.
- Use practical spray drying knowledge to understand operating conditions, support troubleshooting and guide optimisation of dryer performance, efficiency and reliability.
- Work with operators and supervisors to monitor key process parameters, identify abnormal operating conditions and ensure issues are escalated and resolved appropriately.
- Drive continuous improvement initiatives to improve output, reduce waste and cost, strengthen reliability and improve overall plant performance.
- Build and maintain a strong safety culture and ensure compliance with relevant workplace health, safety and environmental requirements.
- Ensure relevant requirements of the Food Safety Management System (FSMS), GMP, HACCP and the Export Control (Milk and Milk Products) Rules 2021 are met.
- Collaborate closely with Quality, Maintenance, Laboratory, Sales and other business areas to optimise the overall manufacturing process.

- Analyse production, process and performance data and use it to support operational decisions and continuous improvement.
- Ensure production procedures, operating instructions, company policies, quality standards and record-keeping requirements are implemented and followed.
- Support the development of operator capability, including practical understanding of spray drying processes, plant performance and process control.

What You Must Bring to the Role

- Demonstrated leadership and people management experience in a manufacturing or process-production environment.
- Previous practical experience with spray drying operations and a sound understanding of spray dryer process conditions, equipment and operating parameters.
- Ability to lead production performance while remaining comfortable working closely with plant, equipment and operators on the production floor.
- Strong operational planning, problem-solving and decision-making skills.
- Ability to identify production and process issues, set priorities and drive actions through to resolution.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to engage effectively with operators, supervisors, technical teams and senior management.
- Strong commitment to workplace safety, food safety, product quality and regulatory compliance.
- Ability to work under pressure, manage competing priorities and meet production deadlines.
- Commitment to building a positive, accountable and improvement-focused team culture.

Highly Regarded

- Production management or senior supervisory experience within dairy, food or powder manufacturing.
- Experience operating or supervising spray dryers used for milk powders, dairy ingredients or other food powders.
- Experience with automated process-control systems and the interpretation of production and process data.
- Experience troubleshooting and optimising spray drying processes in conjunction with operators, Maintenance and Quality teams.
- Knowledge of FSMS, HACCP, GMP and export food-manufacturing requirements.
- Experience leading continuous improvement, efficiency, reliability or cost-reduction initiatives.
- Relevant operational licences, including a forklift licence, where applicable.

Why Join Richmond Dairies?

This is an opportunity to take a key production leadership role within an established Australian dairy manufacturer and directly influence the performance and development of our powder operations. You will combine people leadership and production management with practical spray drying knowledge, helping us strengthen operational discipline, plant capability and continuous improvement across the business.

Salary Range: From $117,000 to $125,000 per annum including Super (depending on experience).

How to Apply

Apply via SEEK with your resume and a cover letter outlining your production leadership experience, spray drying experience and the capabilities you would bring to the role.

Richmond Dairies may close this advertisement earlier if a suitable candidate pool is established.