

AKZONOBEL IMPLEMENTS LAB SAFETY STANDARD WITH BIOVIA CISPro

CHEMICAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM STREAMLINES WORKFLOWS, CONTROLS COSTS, REDUCES RISK CUSTOMER STORY

CUSTOMER: A LEADING GLOBAL SUPPLIER OF SPECIALTY SURFACTANTS AND POLYMERS

AkzoNobel is a leading worldwide producer of decorative paints, performance coatings and specialty chemicals headquartered in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. They supply industries and consumers with innovative products in four key market segments: buildings and infrastructure, transportation, consumer goods and industrial applications. The company has approximately 50,000 employees in over 80 countries and more than 200 production sites.

AkzoNobel's Surface Chemistry division develops, manufactures and markets a unique spectrum of specialty surfactants, synthetic polymers and bio-polymers used in home and personal care products and in industrial and agricultural applications.

CHALLENGE: MANAGING CHEMICALS, ADDRESSING SAFETY REGULATIONS, CONTAINING ASSOCIATED COSTS

In 2012, AkzoNobel published a Laboratory Safety Standard addressing assets, procedures, people and substances within all R&D and QC laboratories across the enterprise. To meet this corporate safety standard, they conducted a comprehensive substance inventory to document existing chemical stores with substance names/labeling, quantities, amounts, dates, locations, owners, hazard ratings and safety data sheets for more than 10,000 containers. Student interns captured all this information on Excel spreadsheets, but this labor-intensive and time-consuming methodology was not sustainable for a company that is leading the way in sustainability, innovation and radical efficiency. For this reason, AkzoNobel opted to explore digital alternatives to managing chemicals and supplies in accordance with their Laboratory Safety Standard.



With CISPro, we know what hazardous materials we have, how much we have, where they're stored and who 'owns' them. Most importantly, we access our Safety Data Sheets directly from CISPro.

Jennifer Hergert, HSE Manager, AkzoNobel

Challenge:

Address critical workflow efficiency, risk management and cost control issues with a chemical inventory management system in a complex lab environment

Solution:

BIOVIA CISPro Cloud Chemical Inventory Management System

Benefits:

- Quick, accurate chemical inventory status and reporting
- Comprehensive hazard information for materials on site
- Reduced purchases of unnecessary chemicals
- Fewer chemicals in waste stream
- Faster experimentation, improved productivity
- Reduced chemical disposal costs

AkzoNobel's Surface Chemistry division decided to transition to a centralized chemical inventory system that would quantify and qualify all chemicals on site, provide transparency across multiple labs, reduce purchasing needs and disposal costs of unused chemicals, combine inventory and regulatory information and be easy to use with minimal IT support.

SOLUTION: ACCURATE, REAL-TIME CHEMICAL INVENTORY TRACKING AND REPORTING

AkzoNobel identified BIOVIA CISPro as a software system that could address lab safety challenges, but at that time, cost was an issue in deploying the system in a single lab location. After deploying CISPro at their Strongsville, Ohio R&D facility in 2012 (a multi-story, multi-building laboratory complex with more than 500 lab personnel), AkzoNobel subsequently began implementing the system at other R&D facilities including Surface Chemistry at Bridgewater, NJ in 2013.

BIOVIA CISPro is currently supporting AkzoNobel's Laboratory Safety Standard at Surface Chemistry by providing a complete, up-to-date substance register with all chemicals entered into CISPro before delivery to the laboratory. It is now easy to determine types and quantities of chemicals and other items held in different lab locations, and Safety Data Sheets (SDS) are also available within a single inventory system. CISPro supports

container labeling, chemical storage/disposal and annual inventory audits in accordance with regulatory requirements. The system also encourages lab personnel to share inventory, thereby minimizing the quantities of chemicals held on site, avoiding duplicate orders and reducing disposal of partially used chemicals. Previously, when using spreadsheets to track substances, it was not as easy to share chemicals across labs and files were not kept up to date.

RESULTS: WORKFLOW PROCESS EFFICIENCIES, LOWER CHEMICAL COSTS AND IMPROVED COMPLIANCE TO REDUCE RISK

One year after implementing BIOVIA CISPro, chemical inventory data clean-up and uploading of current hazard information (Safety Data Sheets) continues. Lab personnel have noted reduced ordering of new chemicals, easier transfer of chemical stocks to new owners and other operational efficiencies made possible through the use of barcode scanners to track containers. The CISPro system supports a consistent Hazardous Materials Identification System in which pre-printed barcode labels clearly identify both purchased chemicals and laboratory-created samples. This approach has streamlined workflows for the receipt, storage, tracking, reconciliation, disposal and reporting of chemicals and SDS management.

Since the deployment of CISPro, the number of chemical purchases and chemical disposals has decreased and overall lab productivity has improved. In some instances, chemists have saved several days in starting an experiment because they were able to determine through CISPro that required chemicals were already in the lab, so there was no need to order materials.

By efficiently tracking chemicals and other laboratory assets from receipt to disposal, BIOVIA CISPro is helping AkzoNobel's Surface Chemistry division to control both chemical inventory and laboratory costs, while also managing health, safety and regulatory compliance risks in accordance with Local, State, Federal and International EH&S regulations and Fire Code safety/reporting standards. An easy-to-use, real-time, barcode-based chemical inventory management system creates a firm foundation for accurate hazardous materials reporting and compliance.

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