



TAKING

TOTAL CONTROL:

4 Reasons Your Business
Needs Comprehensive
Product Stewardship





Product stewardship — a company's responsibility to manage health, safety, environmental and social impact of their products — matters now more than ever.

Consumers and governments demand it. The environment depends on it. As the effects of climate change become more dire, as globalization puts more distance between raw materials and final products, and as regulatory requirements grow in complexity, businesses in the chemical industry can't sleep on product stewardship. They need insight into every aspect of a product's lifecycle, from development to disposal, for total control of corporate impact.

What is Total Control?

Every company in the chemical industry is engaged in the two main areas of product stewardship, chemical management and product compliance. From providing safety data sheets for employees on the factory frontlines, to evaluating final products for hazardous substances, to recycling product packaging, product stewardship touches every aspect of production, distribution, use and disposal.

However, some businesses are beginning to look beyond traditional product stewardship to total control. Total control is an approach to product stewardship that emphasizes preemptive risk management at every stage of the product life cycle. It's founded in a comprehensive understanding of how each stage of production can impact the operations, compliance, customers, employees and the bottom line. This understanding is built on streamlined data collection processes, centralized data storage and access to and integration of the latest regulatory content, so decisions can be made quickly and with confidence across organizations of any size. Industry leaders are targeting total control as a strategy to minimize risk and direct focus to the initiatives that matter most.

Inside the Product Stewardship Lifecycle

Product stewardship follows the product from design to disposal. Here are some of the issues businesses must consider related to health, safety and sustainability throughout the product life cycle:

Manufacturing

- Are Safety Data Sheets accurate, up-to-date and accessible to employees?
- What is the carbon footprint of production?

Raw Materials

- How are the materials extracted?
- Are these materials restricted in target markets?

Design

- How can this product and/or process be improved?



Distribution

- Are storage and transportation methods compliant and designed to prevent safety incidents?

Use

- Are products labeled properly with safety guidelines and warnings?
- What is the environmental impact of the product?

Disposal

- Can packaging be composted or recycled?
- What take-back requirements exist in target markets?

Why Total Control Should Be A Business Imperative

Why should companies focus on total control right now? Simply put, it's just good business. The health and safety of people and the planet are paramount. And, because consumers are increasingly calling on businesses to step up to the plate when it comes to corporate social responsibility, building a responsible and reliable supply chain is also critical to success in today's market.

Total control of the product life cycle means businesses will be better at managing risk and compliance, which translates to fewer costly mistakes. For example, if a super glue company plans to sell its newest product in China, the business needs to ensure all materials are compliant with Chinese regulations from the start. No company wants to be the face of a recall, which can be damaging to the bottom line and the brand image.

Learn more about four key business opportunities presented by total control.

Understanding these opportunities can help businesses excel and raise the bar for true product stewardship industrywide. →



1. Create a safer world.

Safety is essential to total control of the product life cycle. Businesses in total control have full insight of chemical safety risks within operations, from chemical spills to emergency exposure. They have the tools, training, processes and equipment in place to keep employees safe on the job. From a product compliance perspective, businesses with true product stewardship also manage safety beyond the factory walls, ensuring end users can access reliable safety information, whether they are reading the label on a cleaning product at home or the safety data sheet in another facility.

Creating a safer work environment and a safer world means companies can benefit from increased productivity, employee satisfaction and retention, and a solid reputation.

2. Refine risk management.

Closely interrelated to safety is risk management. Total control of product life cycle allows for enhanced risk management, minimizing the negative effects of safety incidents. Total control limits risk exposure to lawsuits, reputational damage, recalls and fines. For example, if an employee doesn't know how to access a safety data sheet during an OSHA audit, businesses may be subject to penalties ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000 per violation. Total control allows for enhanced visibility to help mitigate these risks.



3. Tap into growth potential.

The product stewardship life cycle begins with design. This means businesses engaged in product stewardship are continuously working to redesign and optimize processes, making them more efficient and scalable as businesses grow and expand. Total control enables faster time to market for new products and helps companies drive down waste, ultimately benefiting the bottom line.

4. Fire up productivity.

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In the chemical industry, product stewardship is the baseline. Forward-looking chemical companies are targeting total control — a more sophisticated approach to product stewardship that focuses on preventive risk management in step with other key initiatives related to safety, sustainability and productivity. Built on a streamlined data architecture and reliable, accurate regulatory content, total control of the product stewardship life cycle increases corporate visibility and drives better decision making, enabling businesses to successfully deliver on safety and sustainability strategies.

A gloved hand in a blue nitrile glove holds a pipette, dispensing liquid into a glass Erlenmeyer flask. The flask contains a clear liquid with a vibrant purple dye being added, creating a swirling pattern. The background is a blurred laboratory setting.

ABOUT SPHERA

Sphera is the leading global provider of Integrated Risk Management software and information services with a focus on Environment Health, Safety & Sustainability (EHS&S), Operational Risk Management and Product Stewardship. Sphera has advanced Operational Excellence for more than 30 years, serving companies and customers across the globe to create a safer, more sustainable and productive world.



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