

CASE STUDY:

Formlabs Enhances Chemical Regulatory Compliance with TotalSDS™ Author

Executive Summary

Formlabs, a leading name in 3D printing, leverages TotalSDS™ Author to streamline the creation and management of Safety Data Sheets (SDS) across multiple global jurisdictions.

Mark Polasky, Chemical Regulatory Compliance Manager at Formlabs, shares insights on how the software has optimized their processes, ensuring compliance and efficiency in an ever-evolving regulatory landscape.

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The Challenges

When Mark Polasky joined Formlabs, he inherited the responsibility of managing all safety data sheets for the company. With over 70 products and an increasing demand for more, the task was daunting. "It's constant," Mark explains. The complexity of authoring SDS documents was compounded by the need to stay updated with regulatory changes across multiple jurisdictions, including the EU, US, Canada, China, Japan, and Australia. "The regulatory environment and compliance changes so much so often with so many jurisdictions that there's no way an individual like me on his own could keep track of all the updates," Mark states.

The Solution

Formlabs adopted TotalSDS™ Author for its flexibility and comprehensive capabilities in SDS authoring and translation. Mark highlights the software's adaptability to their needs, especially the ability to manipulate trade secret and proprietary information. "We like the fact that we can edit and make the SDS what we want it to be, protecting trade secrets while remaining compliant for all countries we ship our products to," he notes.

The software's intuitive interface and ease of use were crucial for Mark, who had prior experience with manual SDS creation. "It was pretty straightforward to me. I was expected to jump in and begin authoring and working in the software. Thankfully, the software is intuitive in its functionality and the TotalSDS regulatory team is available with support."

TotalSDS Author has been instrumental in managing our SDS documents efficiently. The flexibility to edit and customize our safety data sheets to meet specific regulatory requirements is invaluable. It's intuitive, time-saving, and essential for keeping up with the ever-changing regulatory landscape.

Mark Polasky
Chemical Regulatory Compliance Manager, Formlabs

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About Formlabs

In 2011, three MIT graduate students developed the first 3D printer capable of delivering industrial, professional-quality parts at an affordable price. Through a steadfast dedication to innovation, Formlabs has grown to become the world's leading supplier of professional stereolithography (SLA) and selective laser sintering (SLS) 3D printers.

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Results

Since implementing TotalSDS™ Author, Formlabs has seen significant improvements in their SDS management process. Mark can now author an entire suite of SDSs for a new product across seven different jurisdictions and in thirty different required languages for those jurisdictions (37 total SDSs), all within a single workday using the TotalSDS™ Author software. This software has revolutionized his workflow, slashing the authoring time dramatically. Tasks that previously took days or even weeks to complete are now streamlined into a matter of hours, showcasing TotalSDS™ Author as a game-changer in SDS creation. Emphasizing the time-saving benefits of the software, Mark shared “I can take an SDS, copy it using the software’s copy feature, and simply not have to do all the iterations,” adding, “So yeah, I’m a speed user now!”

The software’s capability to translate and author for multiple languages and jurisdictions has been particularly beneficial. “We ship products to every EU country, and it turns out to be a lot of safety data sheets,” Mark explains. This efficiency is critical given the complex and changing regulatory demands worldwide.

Mark added one of the key advantages of TotalSDS is the team’s remarkable flexibility, which he appreciates. “When I need specific information or updates, I can reach out to their regulatory team, our go-to experts. For example, there are times when chemical classifications change, and even with my doctorate in chemical engineering, keeping up with these changes can be challenging. Whether it’s understanding the new calculations or navigating EU regulations, they are always there to offer guidance. Their support is invaluable, making TotalSDS an indispensable tool for our operations.”

Conclusion

Formlabs’ experience with TotalSDS™ Author demonstrates the software’s power in simplifying complex regulatory compliance tasks. By enabling efficient SDS creation and management across multiple jurisdictions and languages, TotalSDS Author supports Formlabs in maintaining high standards of safety and compliance, ensuring they can focus on innovation in 3D printing.

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