CHS Cultivates Chemical and Workplace Safety with 3E Solutions

“CHS recommends 3E SDS management and regulatory content solutions because they deliver the functional capabilities we need for providing, authoring and maintaining SDS documents and related chemical and regulatory content and can fully integrate SDS content and reporting including SDS documents, chemical lists, regulatory information, material labels and reporting capabilities. 3E solutions are scalable to meet our needs and offer mature, standardized integration capabilities with our EHS and ERP systems including Enablon and SAP.”

Overview

CHS Inc. is a leading global agribusiness owned by farmers, ranchers and cooperatives across the United States. Diversified in energy, agronomy, grains and foods, CHS is committed to creating connections to empower agriculture, helping its farmer-owners, customers and other stakeholders grow their businesses through its domestic and global operations. CHS supplies energy, crop nutrients, seed, crop protection products, grain marketing services, production and agricultural services, animal nutrition products, foods and food ingredients and risk management services. The company operates petroleum refineries and pipelines and manufactures, markets and distributes Cenex® brand refined fuels, lubricants, propane and renewable energy products.

CHS employs more than 11,000 dedicated people around the globe to provide farmers, ranchers and cooperatives with a strong, efficient supply chain, global market access and inputs. The company puts the well-being of its people, customers and communities first every day. To ensure chemical and workplace safety as well as compliance with Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) requirements CHS sought a practical solution for providing, authoring and maintaining accurate, up-to-date Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) and related content. The business required an SDS and chemical management solution provider who could fully integrate SDS content and reporting, including SDS documents, chemical lists, regulatory information, material labels and reporting.

It was important that multiple users across the organization’s many locations had easy access to safety data. CHS needed a solution that ensured compliance and reduced costs while integrating with EHS and ERP systems including Enablon® and SAP®. In addition, CHS needed to comply with local, state and federal reporting obligations for facilities with hazardous chemicals under SARA Title III.

After carefully evaluating five vendors CHS chose SDS and chemical management and chemical regulatory content solutions from industry leader 3E™.
FACING CHALLENGES

CHS needed a more efficient and effective way to access and manage SDS and chemical property and regulatory data across its growing organization. The company faced continual SDS access, obtainment, compliance and change management challenges using an antiquated web-based product offered by a consulting company. The team had issues ensuring all members were using updated, correct and GHS compliant SDSs in each location. Chemical management and inventory tracking were also a problem. In addition, SARA reporting was difficult due to reliance on manual SDS review and data extraction. Additional fields added to the SARA requirement entailed time-consuming manual data entry for more than 127 SDSs.

FINDING SOLUTIONS

“The Refineries, Pipelines and Terminals division was implementing Enablon and required an SDS provider who could fully integrate SDS content, chemical and regulatory data and reporting,” said Danyel Hoffman, Senior IT Business Systems Analyst and Developer at CHS. “Additional business units, including Process Food Ingredients, required a solution with a portal for maintaining SDS documents, tracking inventories and processing regulatory reporting. 3E provided all the needed functional capabilities.”

After searching for a reputable entity that offered a broad-based solution in the chemical and workplace safety space, CHS compared five providers and selected 3E with confidence. The ease of integration between Enablon and 3E’s solutions further sealed the deal.

CHS was enticed by 3E’s database of more than 10 million searchable SDSs and ability to provide online access for an unlimited number of users, 24-7-365. In addition to the world’s most current and comprehensive SDS database, 3E offered the obtainment of new SDS documents for any additional materials required.

CHS implemented 3E Protect™, 3E’s award winning SDS and chemical management solution. 3E Protect provides immediate access to CHS’s chemical inventory and associated SDSs. The platform delivers efficient SDS management plus document obtainment, data indexation, secondary container label generation, reporting and more. The 3E EHS Call Center offers live, round-the-clock support for issues ranging from SDS requests to emergency response for spills, ingestions, exposures and more.

3E’s up-to-date regulatory, product safety, chemical property and hazard and transportation content can be accessed via a variety of ERP, PLM, EMIS, authoring and EHS platforms. CHS selected 3E for the quality of the data and ease of integration with third party platforms.
“By tapping into 3E’s global library of more than 10 million SDSs we increased efficiency, confidence and compliance enterprise-wide through up-to-date and accurate SDS revisions,” said Hoffman.

“We were able to standardize organization, save costs, ensure consistency and eliminate duplication by using 3E Protect as our chemical and workplace safety solution and 3E Optimize for regulatory content that integrates seamlessly with our risk management solution.”

ACHIEVING RESULTS

Hoffman states: “CHS recommends 3E SDS management and regulatory content solutions because they deliver the functional capabilities we need for providing, authoring and maintaining SDS documents and related chemical and regulatory content and can fully integrate SDS content and reporting including SDS documents, chemical lists, regulatory information, material labels and reporting capabilities. 3E solutions are scalable to meet our needs and offer mature, standardized integration capabilities with our EHS and ERP systems including Enablon and SAP.”

According to CHS, 3E delivered significant business value including:

- Data Congruency
  - Hosting of up-to-date SDS documents and site-specific chemical inventory

- Data Accessibility
  - Integration with ERP and EHS solutions to provide SDS documents, SDS metadata, chemical details and regulatory content
  - Document attachment uploading, including technical data sheets, etc.
  - Full SDS management, including key data indexation
  - Business units can maintain chemical inventory levels for each location to enable reporting based on chemical levels

- Data Obtainment
  - 3E handles SDS obtainment from material and chemical manufacturers

- Data Auditability
  - SDS revision notification and access to new and older versions of SDS documents

- Ad-hoc Authoring Services
  - SDS authoring services as needed

CHS has achieved notable improvement in management of change. Previously the team had to go through manual change processes when they received revised SDSs from vendors. With the integration between 3E and Enablon the manual review is no longer required. The company was able to eliminate time-consuming manual processes while ensuring access to accurate, updated SDS documents and data.

“At CHS we set high standards and hold ourselves accountable,” said Hoffman. “3E Protect has improved both the quality and conformance of the company’s SDSs and the ability of all members to access critical safety data when and where they need it. We now have confidence in our SDS revision process knowing our SDSs are up to date, accurate and GHS compliant.”

Hoffman continues, “3E has helped CHS achieve measurable benefits. With 3E’s solutions we are now saving 15 minutes per SDS by eliminating manual review and data extraction processes. The user friendly 3E Protect interface saves time and streamlines SDS and chemical management for users. And being able to standardize across the enterprise reduces costs for CHS.”

Upon implementing the solutions offered by 3E, the company standardized their EHS practices, eliminated manual processes and achieved significant cost savings across the enterprise. With the elimination of manual indexing and filtering CHS increased workplace productivity while reducing the potential for human error.
With 3E, CHS was able to:

- Host up-to-date and accurate SDS documents and site-specific chemical inventory
- Eliminate manual processes including SDS filtering and indexing
- Eliminate the need to chase suppliers for SDSs by outsourcing collection to 3E’s obtainment specialists
- Eliminate duplication while offering SDS access to unlimited account users nationwide
- Utilize the 3E EHS Call Center for 24-7-365 emergency response
- Generate SARA Candidate lists
- Integrate seamlessly with ERP, EHS and risk management solutions including Enablon and SAP

“3E’s breadth of knowledge and experience with integration proved to be invaluable,” said Hoffman. “We were able to utilize best practice examples from the work they’ve done for other companies to optimize our deployment.”

Choose 3E

For more than 30 years the world’s leading companies have trusted 3E, formerly Verisk 3E, to provide the intelligent compliance solutions they need to ensure safety and sustainability while creating new opportunities for growth. Our unmatched Environmental, Health, Safety and Sustainability (EHS&S) and product compliance expertise empowers our clients to improve chemical and workplace safety, product safety and stewardship and supply chain transparency. Actionable intelligence informs globally responsible business practices and improves Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) performance.

We are deeply committed to serving our more than 5,000 customers worldwide, including nine of the world’s top ten chemical manufacturers, eight of the top ten retailers and seven of the top ten pharmaceutical companies. Learn more at 3Eco.com.