Ensuring Environmental Compliance

FOR RETAIL, FOOTWEAR & APPAREL, AND CONSUMER PRODUCTS

Few industries are as fast-paced and cost-conscious as Retail, Footwear & Apparel, and Consumer Products. Keeping up with constantly changing consumer trends, while maintaining cost controls, is challenging enough. But today, you also have to comply with rapidly changing environmental regulations, like CPSIA and REACH. Plus, you have to satisfy your customers' own environmental requirements—all without missing a beat. Windchill® Product Analytics software can help.

As the momentum to 'go green' continues to build across the globe, the number of environmental regulations for reducing hazardous substances in the Retail, Footwear & Apparel, and Consumer Products industries keeps growing. At the same time, more and more customers are now setting their own environmental requirements, which is adding even more complexity to the mix. Ignoring the issue is not an option, as the consequences of noncompliance—public relations nightmares, delays resulting in missed consumer trends, blocked shipments, costly redesigns, and scrapped products—can be devastating to your bottom line.

To avoid these costs and enable product stewardship, companies need to precisely identify, track and control a constantly evolving list of high-risk substances, both in your own products as well as those in your supply chain. Additionally, companies must better manage reports that involve testing and certification for products and materials. Unfortunately, spreadsheets, homegrown databases, and manual processes simply can't meet this enormous data management challenge.

Windchill Product Analytics is a proven software solution that provides industry best practices to meet customer and regulatory environmental requirements, achieve corporate environmental goals, and lower the risk of blocked sales and costly product redesigns. By making environmental compliance an integral part of the standard product development process, Windchill Product Analytics gives you the power to bring compliant products to market faster without sacrificing profit margin.

Figure 1: Integrating environmental compliance into the standard product development process will lower costs and reduce the risk of non-compliance and product launch delays.

Industry best practices

Below, you'll see a number of best practices that are delivered as part of the Windchill Product Analytics solution.

1. Ensure compliance and monitor exposure to risk from evolving regulations for all products

With Windchill Product Analytics, companies are able to identify a list of hazardous substances and their concentrations in all products. You can grade products against numerous current regulations, including REACH, CPSIA, California Proposition 65, as well as customer requirements. And, as new restricted substances are identified, and as exemptions expire, your entire team can be kept up-to-date on the changes to requirements. By tracking Substances of Very High Concern, which are likely to appear on future restrictions, you can easily anticipate forthcoming regulation changes in product designs, and maintain proactive compliance requirements.

2. Systematically capture data on materials and chemicals, and share environmental data reports

To be effective in their jobs, product and environmental experts should spend their time focusing on analysis and action, and not on capturing data. Windchill Product Analytics enables users to efficiently collect accurate data, so they can quickly understand the detailed chemical make-up of all products and purchased materials, and provide the necessary supply chain traceability and audit trail history to regulators. Windchill Product Analytics quickly generates product and program reports, enabling companies to share environmental data, for example, to acquire ecolabel certifications like the Better Cotton Initiative and Eco-Tex.

3. Automate the collection of testing and certification reports from suppliers

Many organizations still use homegrown systems and manual processes to acquire testing and certification reports from suppliers, which requires considerable effort. Windchill Product Analytics allows companies to systematically manage and aggregate the collection of testing and certification reports with unprecedented speed. Supplier data requests are automated, and data quality improved through automatic error-checking. With confidence in the data, companies can generate a valid General Certificate of Compliance (GCC).

4. Make environmental compliance part of the standard product development processes and systems

Managing the environmental performance of a company's products is not a one-time project. It's an ongoing issue that must be integrated throughout the entire product life-cycle—starting from the moment that market requirements are developed, to the time when new products are introduced and new materials and suppliers are qualified. By building environmental compliance into the earliest phases of product development, where decisions have the most impact and are least disruptive, companies can save money and bring compliant products to market faster.
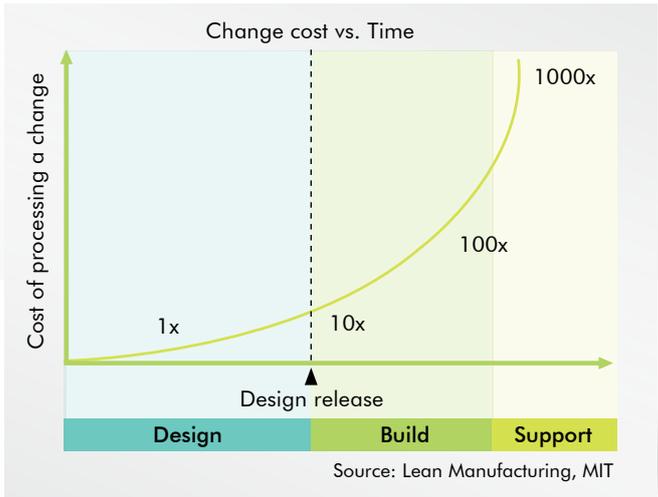

Figure 2: By building environmental compliance into the earliest phases of product development, companies can bring compliant products to market faster with lower costs.

5. Stand-alone or integrate with enterprise system

Windchill Product Analytics integrates with your existing design and supply chain management data management systems, to facilitate building ecodesign into the product development process. Windchill Product Analytics can also be used as a stand-alone environmental compliance solution.

6. Reduce the risk of supply chain disruptions

Product environmental requirements are subject to change as new restricted substances are identified and existing exemptions expire. New mandates are now emerging that focus on energy use, carbon footprint, and other environmental metrics. As suppliers respond to these regulatory and market forces, the availability, cost and even the viability of the components and materials companies purchase for use in products will be impacted. Windchill Product Analytics helps you manage and mitigate these supply chain risks, providing both an early-warning system and data to support effective decision-making in design and production.

A consistent solution

In order to foster product stewardship, companies must make environmental performance part of the entire product lifecycle and an ongoing part of the business culture—just as individual consumers have become product stewards whenever they buy, use and discard any product.

Windchill Product Analytics will not only improve product environmental performance, but also allow companies to provide credible environmental claims to customers. As a result, customers and consumers will become more loyal participants in product stewardship.

Learn More about Windchill Product Analytics

For more information on Windchill Product Analytics, please visit: PTC.com/products/windchill/productanalytics

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