UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA STREAMLINES CHEMICAL SAFETY WITH MSDSONLINE

"Now we have one account controlling the hazard needs of the entire campus, and it works very well."

Richard Wagner
Manager of Chemical Safety
University of Arizona Research Laboratory & Safety Services

The University of Arizona

- One of the world's largest and leading research universities
- Uses more than 80,000 substances requiring SDSs
- Using the MSDSonline HQ Account since 2015

As one of the world's premier public research universities — conducting more than $580 million of research annually — the University of Arizona has state-of-the-art science labs at the leading-edge of biological, chemical, and engineering research. In addition to researchers, the university is also home to tens of thousands of undergraduate students, and thousands more grad students and faculty. The university's safety team must work to keep all of these populations safe from campus chemical hazards.

In 2013, as part of a change initiative, the university's safety services began looking into new ways to improve safety and compliance across departments, and across campus. Between its labs and other campus facilities, the University of Arizona has about 80,000 substances requiring safety data sheets. Richard Wagner, Manager of Chemical Safety for University

of Arizona Research Laboratory & Safety Services, explains why adopting the MSDSonline HQ Account was a key part of making this transition a success.

"The university was going through a reorganization and a change of culture," says Mr. Wagner. "Previously, our office had been tasked only with handling radioactive materials. Now we found ourselves challenged to handle chemical safety as well. I knew from previous experience, developing open software to track radioactive material, that we needed to give the campus labs a compelling reason to 'play ball' with us."

Sukeshi Roberts, Chemical Safety Coordinator for the university, gives further detail.

"A special task in this connection was listening to the concerns of researchers in our labs and finding a way to collaborate

with them to create a solution," says Ms. Roberts. "Often the lab employees would say to us, 'I have a finite amount of grant money. I need to spend my time doing research, not tracking down SDSs.' After hearing that a few times, we really started delving into how to address the issue. That's when it became increasingly clear that the HQ Account could be an important part of our solution."

"Our labs needed a better system, period," adds Mr. Wagner. "We were using the paper binder system. Some of the binders were very old, and had safety data sheets made with dot matrix printers. On top of that, the people in the labs were not very engaged by the compliance resources available to them."

After months of working with *VelocityEHS* to tailor a package to suit the needs of a large research campus — and integrating it with existing University of Arizona software

programs — the HQ Account was deployed campus-wide in 2015.

"Now we have one account controlling the hazard needs of the entire campus, and it works very well," says Mr. Wagner. "The *VelocityEHS* team was with us during the entire conception of this — our vision for it — and made sure the functionality would work with that vision. The result has been just what we needed. It's wonderful!"

The HQ Account has had an especially powerful impact at the lab-level.

"It's been a huge time saver for our labs, and they love that" says Mr. Wagner. "I knew that the last thing they wanted to hear was 'I've got a brand new safety program, and I have all these new procedures and rules for you to learn.' With the HQ Account, instead I was able to say that I have this new program which will make managing safety in your lab easier and more interactive. It gives our safety department and our labs joint ownership of the responsibility, which is great. It makes the lab treat our chemical safety folks more like collaborators and less like inspectors who drop by to tell you what you're doing wrong."

Ms. Roberts seconds this.

"Our labs say that it's so nice having this system," explains Ms. Roberts. "They say they need to spend as much time as possible on research. . .while still being in compliance. This lets them do that."

What is *your* time worth?

How much time do you spend managing safety data sheets? How frequently does looking for new or updated manufacturer information take you away from more important tasks? How many of your employees spend part — or even *all* — of their time attending to compliance?

While *VelocityEHS* can never guarantee identical results for users, our proven solutions have helped educational institutions of all sizes and types *vastly* reduce time spent on compliance, while bringing aboard powerful solutions to help them confidently meet their safety and compliance requirements.

In addition to being a good fit with the culture of their research labs, the HQ Account has also resulted in a meaningful savings of money and time for the university.

"It's saved us a lot of time," says Ms. Roberts. "Before the HQ Account, myself, a technician, and a student were trying to create an electronic SDS database for the university on our own. We were constantly searching for, downloading, and actively looking for updates. It was a lot of work! The major selling point, at least for me, was the update process with the HQ Account. It regularly updates the SDS database, and informs us when an update has been done. The monetary savings from personnel hours has been huge."

Mr. Wagner echoes this sentiment.

"The time savings made the MSDSonline solution a far cheaper alternative for us due to their cloud-based business model," adds Mr. Wagner. "*VelocityEHS* is the only one out there saying: 'Sure, we've got a mold, but we can fit into what you're looking to do. And we're willing to spend the time to do that.' That's something we heard from nobody else."

Benefits of the HQ Account

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips
24/7 access to the industry's leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company's library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance
Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management
Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile Chemical Inventory Scanner app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access
Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free eBinder mobile app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant
Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership
The HQ Account pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there's no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.