

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COMPLIANCE SUCCESS STORY

CANCER TREATMENT CENTRE ACCELERATES RESEARCH IN THE FACE OF SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE NEEDS

Problem

The challenge of complying with hazardous materials regulations had become increasingly difficult for one of the world's most renowned cancer treatment and research centres. Updating spreadsheets annually in each laboratory was no longer adequate for reporting hazardous substances in a close in research to patient care facility. However, the centre's leadership knew that requiring scientists to maintain its hazard material records in real time would impose too great a burden and drain valuable time from research. Such time is highly valued at this higher education and research institute, which must rapidly translate scientific knowledge gained in the laboratory into clinical care. The centre strives to dramatically accelerate the pace of converting scientific discoveries into clinical advances that reduce cancer deaths.

Beneath the broader challenge of hazardous materials management, the centre needed to address the following questions:

- Are the laboratory spreadsheets accurate? Is filing complete? Could the centre pass an audit, or would fines be imposed?
- How could the centre evaluate the time and resources needed to compile hundreds of files to produce reports multiple times per year? How could the centre accurately and efficiently review, correct, merge and translate data for each report? Are the quantity and nature of hazardous substances in any given area documented?
- What is the liability of having unknown substances in close proximity to patients, workers and visitors? Is the environment safe? Are constituents properly informed or provided with adequate communication on emergency evacuation planning?
- What effort is taken to label the hazardous materials in a lab for proper emergency response? If an incident occurred, could there be a delay in external emergency response while waiting for hazardous chemicals to be removed?
- Is the relocation of labs being delayed while calculating permissible threshold quantity limits? How are chemical loads determined before relocating a lab?

Problem

A world renowned cancer treatment and research centre must meet new regulatory requirements without imposing an additional burden on its research community.

Solution

The centre engaged **VWRCATALYST** to design, implement and resource a centralised, technology-driven reporting system.

Result

The centre has accelerated delivery of accurate reporting data from several days to hours, eliminated the burden of hazardous materials reporting for laboratories, and provided instantaneous access to hazardous material information for sharing with regulatory agencies.

Annual Hours Spent Managing Hazardous Materials Data

VWRCATALYST implemented a system that reduced time spent managing hazardous materials data from 2960 hours per year to zero hours per year.

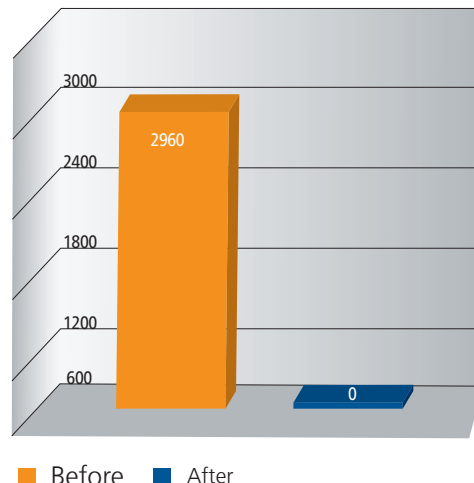
Solution

A VWRCATALYST Business Process Consultant worked with the centre's research administration, materials management and environmental health and safety teams to understand current processes requirements and future goals. The consultant analysed this information and designed a best-fit solution that could be integrated into the centre's existing workflow or outsourced.

Result

A highly effective programme was outsourced through a competitive bid process. Following implementation, the programme:

- Returned nearly 3000 hours per year to scientific research
- Documented accurate inventory of legacy hazardous materials, avoiding the loss of over 7500 hours of research time
- Made real time, electronic, accessible hazardous material information and data available instantaneously for regulatory reporting, inventory control, space planning, safety and emergency communication. Previously, this information took weeks to obtain.



Are your scientific resources being wasted on non research activities? VWRCATALYST has the skills, knowledge and experience to support research productivity improvement at your organisation. Visit VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST, email VWRCATALYST@eu.vwr.com for more information.

We Enable Science Through Services

From research to production, VWRCATALYST can help you re-focus scientific time on initiatives that directly support the strategic mission of your company.

We Enable Science by:

- Powering productivity
- Improving quality, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Reducing total operating costs

Our services include:

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- Laboratory and Production Support
- Scientific Support
- Equipment and Instrument Services
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