



## Enginetics

### Enginetics Aerospace Boosts Safety Data Management to Earn ISO 14001 Certification and Lower Operating Costs

Product and worker safety have always been top priorities at Enginetics Aerospace Corporation. Founded in 1976, this Ohio-based company began as a small manufacturer of prototype parts. Today it is a leading provider of complex metal formed components and fabricated assemblies for the global aerospace industry, partnering with the US Department of Defense as well as commercial jet builders and military customers in other countries to deliver innovative design and engineering that result in superior quality at lower costs.

As its international business took off, Enginetics' executive team decided to seek ISO 14001 certification. ISO 14001 is a framework that companies can follow to assure management, employees and other stakeholders that environmental impacts are being measured and improved. By analyzing work processes and identifying materials that are used in each step, companies can often achieve benefits such as reduced cost of waste management, savings in consumption of energy and materials, lower distribution costs and improved corporate reputation.

Fortunately, Enginetics was well positioned to apply for ISO 14001 certification because it was already fully committed to ensuring compliance with other global mandates for product stewardship and sustainability – including Tier II chemical inventory reporting under the US Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA) as well as the Globally Harmonized System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) and the European Union's Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH).

To facilitate compliance with these mandates, and more, Enginetics had recently automated management of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) throughout its operations. It stopped relying on hazard communication information in paper-based SDSs that had to be managed manually in order to streamline its compliance work processes and reduce the likelihood of critical material safety data being inaccessible, in error or out of date.

In 2004, Enginetics selected Sphera's DolphinRTK® software – available on-demand as a Web-based application – part of the Sphera Product Stewardship Solution.

#### CHALLENGE

- Maintain access to current markets and enter new ones by ensuring compliance with global safety regulations and standards
- Improve worker safety and health by making chemical hazard information more accessible
- Drive growth by lowering costs and enabling smart product development decisions

#### SOLUTION

##### Product Stewardship

- SDS Management and Right-to-Know
- Chemical Management & Reporting

#### RESULTS

- Automated Safety Data Sheet management to ensure compliance with ISO 14001 as well as REACH, GHS, EPCRA Tier II
- Improved daily employee access to chemical hazard communications to help reduce incidents and injury-related costs
- Reduced the time required to find a specific SDS from 15 minutes to just seconds
- Accelerated collection of chemical data for Tier II reporting from weeks or months to 1 day
- Provided accurate, timely data to determine what materials should be used as ingredients in products intended for a given market

“The fact is that our SDSs were scattered all over the place,” said Jennifer Helman, Hazardous Material Coordinator at Enginetics, “It was extremely difficult to track them and keep them current. Sphera has been a life saver, honestly. It’s made my job so much easier. Previously it could take 15 minutes or more to find an SDS. Now you’re looking at less than 30 seconds. We have computers available all over the shop floor so people can get the SDS they need quickly and easily. Finding chemical safety information nowadays just depends on how fast they can type!” Enginetics executives decided to apply for ISO 14001 certification because one of their international customers specifically asked them to do so in order to make it easier for the two companies to do business together.

To meet this new challenge, Helman and her team once again needed immediate access to accurate, timely SDS information – just as they had for EPCRA, REACH, GHS and other regulations or standards.

DolphinRTK enabled the Enginetics team to quickly and easily identify SDSs and analyze potential safety and/or environmental impacts in order to meet the ISO certification requirements.

“The Sphera solution is awesome,” Helman said. “We were able to sort and identify products, and then pull everything off into an Excel spreadsheet, which is what I used for my impact list. Then I just add a couple of other features to that list and it worked perfectly.

Achieving ISO 14001 certification enabled Enginetics to grow its client base by expanding into new markets. Customers can now be confident that Enginetics products are compliant with REACH, GHS and other leading product stewardship mandates.

Enginetics also uses DolphinRTK to comply with Tier II regulatory requirements. Every year, Helman and her team must send the US Environmental Protection Agency detailed reports on hazardous chemicals that the company uses at its facilities.

“All I have to do is type in all the ingredients and run the Tier II, and it tells me every chemical I have in the building. Instead of having to read every single SDS in our shop, I just go to the Sphera website, type in the chemical name, and it’s right there – along with the regulatory list, products grouped by list, ingredients grouped by list and reportable quantities,” Helman explained. “We use more than 2,000 chemicals in our production facilities so I would probably have to spend weeks or months getting this done. With Sphera, I can do it all in one day.”

The leadership team at Enginetics also requires material safety information to make informed strategic decisions about product design and development.

“The Sphera system helps us determine what materials we can and cannot use in our customers’ products,” Helman said. “I can look at the proposed ingredients and see which ones our company should use to meet requirements for our current markets and gain access to markets in other countries. Finally, Enginetics, with the Sphera system, also supports one of the company’s most important commitments, one that is much closer to home – that is, to provide employees with a safe and healthy work environment. As workers have become more aware of potential hazards and had better access to safety data, it has helped the company reduce workplace safety incidents and incident-related costs.

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Enginetics Aerospace Corporation

“People here have started taking more responsibility on themselves because now they have SDSs at their fingertips – with information about chemical properties and recommendations for personal protective equipment. Employee morale and productivity have gone up and turnover has gone down,” said Helman.

“And the executive team is happy because the company is saving a lot of money since incidents, near misses and injuries are all down. We don’t have to spend as much money on insurance coverage or training replacement workers so we can invest more resources in continuing to develop the products that our customers need. SDS management plays a key part in how we are growing our business.”