

Lab & production services
Chemical inventory management

Success story

EXTENDING CHEMICAL INVENTORY MANAGEMENT TO A MULTI-SITE SYSTEM STREAMLINES PROCESSES AND DELIVERS OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

PROBLEM

A leading pharmaceutical company discovered that the chemical reports required by the Environmental, Health, and Safety (EH&S) department were placing significant labor and cost constraints on a key research and development (R&D) laboratory. The overburdened lab did not complain, but the EH&S data was rarely accurate. Management of approximately 6,000 chemical containers on site was completed manually as time permitted. Unfortunately, quarterly physical inventory counts repeatedly unearthed inconsistencies between the inventory reports and actual inventory on hand.

Laboratory scientists collected the chemical data manually on Excel spreadsheets that were then provided to EH&S, a process that was cumbersome, inconsistent, and hard to manage. Further, the chemical inventory management activities negatively affected the scientists' productivity by taking them away from the lab bench, where their activities directly benefitted the corporate bottom line.

SOLUTION

ChemSW's CISPro® chemical inventory system was being used at two other company sites. EH&S invited Avantor Services to analyze the overburdened R&D lab's workflows, scrutinize processes, and develop a solution. Avantor Services proposed that the facility

PROBLEM

The disconnect between the accuracy of the chemical reports EH&S required and the ability of the R&D laboratory to track chemical containers was negatively affecting scientists' productivity and the quality of inventory reports.

SOLUTION

Avantor Services and ChemSW optimized chemical management processes, streamlined scientists' workloads, and significantly improved the accuracy of chemical inventory and safety data.

RESULTS

The company has been able to significantly reduce disposal costs for expired chemicals, save money and time by eliminating quarterly manual inventory processes, and reduce the number of chemical containers on site by more than 30% since the program was implemented.



"We didn't know that the lab had so much trouble providing chemical inventory data, but we were frustrated that their reports never matched what we found when we performed our quarterly physical inventory counts. When we found out that the lab was looking at commercial solutions, we suggested contacting Avantor about extending an existing site license we'd heard a lot of good things about. I couldn't be more pleased with the result. Right now the company is discussing extending the system to even more sites."

The site EH&S Manager

leverage the existing global contract with Avantor for chemicals procurement as well as Avantor site licenses to extend the chemical inventory system to the R&D laboratory.

The new chemical tracking program is managed by Avantor Services and includes the hardware and software, the implementation team, and ongoing maintenance. Implementation included not just optimizing CISPro for the site, but a thorough housecleaning and inventory of all chemicals on site.

The two driving forces behind extending the Avantor Services solution were streamlining the scientists' workload and ensuring

the accuracy of chemical inventory data. As a result, the organization was able to implement a cost-effective solution that not only streamlined processes but also significantly improved the accuracy of the chemical inventory and safety data.

RESULTS

The chemical tracking program has delivered greater assurance that the chemical containers on site are managed safely and more efficiently while relieving the laboratory scientists of workflow challenges. The chemical tracking program has achieved numerous benefits:

- Inconsistent data has been eliminated; all chemical inventory data is now accurate and real-time
- Standardized color-coded labels ensure greater chemical storage safety site-wide
- Ability to track chemical location and quantity, as well as generate real-time reports listing chemical containers by location, vendor, name, CAS number, formula, and more
- Cost savings and time savings from elimination of quarterly manual inventory processes
- Disposal costs for expired chemicals have been significantly reduced
- Regulatory requirements are addressed better and reporting is significantly improved
- Better control of chemical inventory data

Additionally, after Avantor Services performed a thorough inventory of approximately 6,000 chemical containers on, and in the process eliminating expired ensuring that all incoming chemicals are entered into CISPro, the system's real-time tracking enabled the site to perform at the same level with only 4,000 containers, thus reducing inventory by 30%.

Are your scientific resources being wasted on non-research activities?

Visit avantorsciences.com/lab-production-services or email services@avantorsciences.com for more information.

Avantor Services helps scientific organizations solve complex challenges, resulting in improved productivity, increased efficiency, and accelerated innovation.