



Success Story

Toxins reported: Processes automated – Competitive edge secured



In just two months, HANSA-FLEX AG together with the IT consulting and system integration company msg, implemented the European reporting obligation for substances of very high concern (SVHC). The solution msg.SCIpper now transmits over 65,000 notifications of SVHC substances to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) in a fully automated way. HANSA-FLEX AG thus operates in compliance with the law and can answer customer inquiries about ingredients immediately.

The Customer

With about 4,000 employees, HANSA-FLEX AG, headquartered in Bremen, is one of Europe's leading system providers in fluid technology. The depth and breadth of the products and services makes the company a sought-after value-added partner because in key technologies, like hydraulic systems, solutions from a single source are preferred. Machines, facilities and systems of HANSA-FLEX AG customers need to run securely, reliably and around the clock. Availability counts, downtime cost money. The protection of people and the environment leaves no room for compromise. Nico Schreuder, Team Lead Master Data Management at the system provider, is well aware of this. This is why his focus is on legal security and service.

The Challenge

There was not much leeway for Nico Schreuder - Team Lead Master Data Management - when he learned about the new European SCIP reporting obligation (Substances of Concern in Articles or Products) in October 2020: He was surprised when he read in a newsletter published by VDMA (Mechanical Engineering Industry Association (Verband Deutscher Maschinen- und Anlagenbau) that, according to the SCIP reporting obligation, all HANSA-FLEX AG products containing

substances of very high concern (SVHC) above a threshold of 0.1 percent must be reported to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as early as January 1, 2021. Time was short but he was determined to take on the challenge. As one of Europe's leading system providers in fluid technology, HANSA-FLEX AG stands for excellent customer service and this includes implementing compliance requirements quickly.

Initial Situation

"It was immediately clear to me that implementing the ECHA reporting requirement as part of the in-house SAP infrastructure would be too lengthy and costly," explains team lead Schreuder. The migration from SAP R3 to S/4HANA had all resources tied up at that time. In addition, the necessary adjustments were very far removed from the core function of the ERP system. Therefore, his team focused on querying data from master data management and the product data management software STEP by Stibo Systems. HANSA-FLEX AG has already been using this solution since 2017. Nico Schreuder's team had also been working continuously for two years with the IT consulting and system integration company msg to adjust the STEP solution to the company's needs and to improve data performance and the web operator interface.

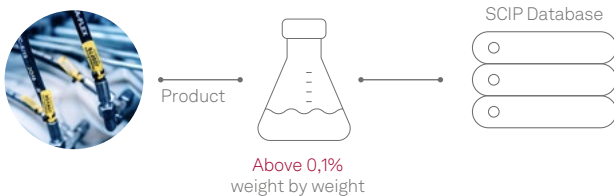


“We currently receive about 10 to 20 customer inquiries about the lead content of our products. Thanks to msgSCIPper, we can answer these inquiries in a few minutes – even if we are talking about a list of 1,000 products. This is a real competitive edge because supply chain security is important to our customers.”

Nico Schreuder, Team Lead Master Data Management, HANSA-FLEX AG

The Goal

Based on this successful collaboration, team lead Schreuder did not want to integrate a makeshift solution for assuring compliance. Instead, his goal from the outset was to develop a flagship solution that reports all dangerous substances in HANSA-FLEX AG products to the ECHA as automatically as possible. By mid-2021, every customer should be able to enter a material number and get a result immediately. Nico Schreuder concludes “Sustainability is increasingly in focus. It’s only a matter of time before other substances besides 65,000 HANSA-FLEX AG products with a lead content of more than 0.1 percent become subject to reporting obligations. We want to be prepared for this.”



The Solution

For a fast, results-oriented introduction of the new solution, Nico Schreuder contacted the master data project manager Anchana Prütz of the IT consulting and system integration company msg. Anchana Schütz reports: “The first step was to transmit 21,000 notifications of products with a lead content of 0.1 percent in January. This can be perfectly implemented with the msg.SCIpPer solution in combination with STEP. It also makes it very easy to automate the data processing and notification transmission that is necessary for HANSA-FLEX AG.”

How it works step by step: Employees enter the product characteristics using the user-friendly web interface or upload a list. msg.SCIpPer automatically checks if all mandatory data for the identification and handling, depending on other objects and details on the affected elements and ingredients,

is available. msg.SCIpPer then independently transmits the information to ECHA, which confirms the notification.

“When updating individual materials, msg.SCIpPer checks which notifications to ECHA are mandatory and submits them. If msg.SCIpPer does not recognize a data record, the system displays this information in the GUI of msg.SCIpPer and notifies the responsible employee by e-mail. Nico Schreuder reports: „This way the data can be cleaned up, otherwise everything runs automatically.”

The Benefit

Manual reporting entries and manual updates are no longer necessary and HANSA-FLEX AG employees can concentrate fully on customer service. “We currently receive 10 to 20 customer inquiries a week about the lead content of our products. Thanks to msgSCIPper, we can answer these inquiries in a few minutes - even if we are talking about a list of 1,000 products”, explains Schreuder and elaborates: “This is a real competitive edge because supply chain security is important to our customers.”

Meantime, the initial 21,000 notifications have grown to the planned 65,000. By grouping products using a naming logic, the number is kept within limits. Otherwise, HANSA-FLEX AG would already have more than 2 million individual products to report. Since the selected msg.SCIpPer solution was designed for growth from the start, it can be scaled if the need arises. Nico Schreuder’s project team is pleased to be able to demonstrate once again what HANSA-FLEX AG’s master data management solution with Stibo STEP and msg.SCIpPer can achieve. The partnership with msg has proven its worth and Nico Schreuder is happy to be a pilot user should msg expand the SCIPper solution. In any case, HANSA-FLEX AG intends to expand its partnership with msg based on this highly positive experience and also get advice on SAP from msg in 2022.



Project Overview

HANSA FLEX

Customer

HANSA-FLEX AG

Industry

Manufacturing industry

Starting Situation

HANSA-FLEX AG wanted to implement the SCIP reporting obligation, which came into force on January 1, 2021, within the shortest possible time frame. All products with a lead content above the threshold of 0.1 percent were to be reported to the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) as automatically as possible.

Task

- Project implementation in a just a few weeks
- Seamless integration into the STEP product data management solution by Stibo Systems
- Automatic data record recognition and automation of the reporting processes
- Ease of use and scalability of the solution

Solution

The chosen solution msg.SCIPper automatically checks if all mandatory data for the identification and handling of newly included products is available. msg.SCIPper then independently transmits the information to the registration office, which confirms the notification. When updating individual materials, msg.SCIPper checks which notifications are mandatory and submits them. When a data record is not recognized, the system displays this information and informs the responsible employee by e-mail.

Benefit

- Ensures the legal compliance of HANSA-FLEX AG
- Automates the reporting processes for products containing substances of very high concern (SVHC)
- Excellent and easily scalable solution
- Ensured supply chain security regarding SVHC substances for all customers
- Customers get all information on SVHC substances in an automated self-service manner with just a few clicks

We are happy to help you if you have any questions or suggestions. Please contact us:



Andreas Ediger

Division Manager MDM Solutions
+49 176 12288624
andreas.edinger@msg.group