



Customer Success Story

Porter Logistics Improves Chemical Management Efficiency with VelocityEHS



Porter Logistics (Porter) provides [third-party logistics \(3PL\) services in Atlanta Georgia](#) for a wide range of clients including manufacturers, retailers, and direct sellers across many different industries. They operate three facilities in the Atlanta, Georgia area with approximately 750,000 total square feet of space and about 70 employees. John Foshee, President of Porter, co-founded the company in 2016 with the CEO, Robert Crump.

The Challenge of Managing a Changing Chemical Inventory

The nature of Porter's business creates challenges for chemical management, especially as the company's operational scale has grown.

"Yeah, I think we have scaled pretty dramatically over the last six or seven years," Foshee explained. "We were a startup. We were able to handle things with paper and basic organizational methods, shelving, that sort of thing. But as we're moving up, we're handling many more products with many different chemistries. We work with some of the largest brands in the world, so we've got to make sure that we stay on top of things and stay compliant."

An additional challenge is that many of the materials Porter handles include pharmaceutical, food & beverage, and life sciences products.

"The big thing is that we play heavily in regulated spaces," Foshee said. "We do a ton in [dangerous goods warehousing, hazardous goods warehousing, and chemical distribution](#) in that respect. Our Atlanta practice in these areas is second to none."

Porter also has chemical reporting obligations due to the quantities of hazardous chemicals stored at their facilities. Foshee states that two of the three facilities need to complete EPA Tier II reports under Section 312 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA). Of course, the ability to quickly and accurately complete and submit Tier II reports depends heavily on the ability to track your chemical inventory and safety data sheet (SDS) library.

Porter had been managing their SDSs manually, or by keeping digital copies of the SDS in email attachments, or on a Google Drive organized by customer. The system worked but took a lot of time and effort, and the risk for error was high. Foshee also noted that these methods were "a little cumbersome to sort through if you need to find something very specific."

Partnering with VelocityEHS

According to Foshee, Porter started searching at chemical management software in late 2022 to help address their challenges. They evaluated three potential vendors but quickly found themselves impressed by what Foshee describes as the "depth and breadth" of the VelocityEHS Chemical Management software. They were impressed by not only the capabilities of the software and how it simplified access to their SDSs and chemical inventory information, but also the availability and attentiveness of the Velocity Customer Success team. Porter wrapped up their search within just two months and thanks to the support of Customer Success, they were able to quickly implement the software and have it up and running in very little time.

Foshee says that VelocityEHS Chemical Management has already had a positive impact, making it much easier for him to access and view chemical information and helping him to more effectively manage Porter's chemical inventory.



"It acts as an organized repository for us," Foshee explained. "It has been able to scale with us as we continue to grow. As an [Atlanta public warehouse](#), we have tens of thousands of SDSs across many clients in there at different points, and the system can accommodate them all. And also, I would say that there's a 'network effect' with Velocity in the sense that there's a huge SDS library, a lot of producers that are just on the system that are not necessarily ours but are available if we need them."

For Foshee, the biggest benefit of having access to that library (the largest SDS library in the EHS software industry) is having the ability to explore alternatives for the chemical products they use.

"Let's say we're interested in having a product with a certain chemistry," Foshee states, "or maybe somebody sends us something that looks maybe a little sketchy, where the SDS looks like it may not align with the US HazCom Standard. In those cases, we can usually find a comparable chemistry that will work for our applications from a reputable manufacturer, with a document that's HazCom compliant. We can type in a Chemical Abstract System (CAS) number or other identifiers and get results for products that are chemically the same or similar. So, from a research perspective, it's also been a very, very powerful tool for us."

Velocity has not just been reserved for chemical business, but for many of Porter's [Atlanta food grade warehouse](#) clients, many of whom have ingredients that are both food grade as well as hazardous in their concentrated forms. Food and beverage firms need to comply with [FSMA \(Food Safety Modernization Act\)](#) rules, which focus on preventing contamination and enabling fast traceability of various ingredients and finished goods. Velocity, along with others tools, provides this traceability for Porter and allow it to maintain its food grade certifications in Georgia.

Pharmaceutical and nutraceutical companies also benefit from Porter's use of Velocity's SDS management capabilities. Pharmaceutical manufacturers must meet [current Good Manufacturing Practice \(cGMP\)](#) standards and, in many cases, comply with DEA requirements for controlled substances. Porter's [Atlanta cold storage](#) capabilities rely on SDS information like temperature bands, which are critical to the integrity of active pharmaceutical ingredients (API's) contained in most pharma products.

Foshee also notes that employee adoption of the software has gone very well, which he largely attributes to its ease of use. Tier II reporting is also now faster and easier because all chemical safety and inventory information is instantly available, and Foshee can quickly cross-reference chemical ingredients against EPA's List of Extremely Hazardous Substances (EHSs) to identify chemicals reportable at smaller storage thresholds.

What does the future hold? Foshee says he's looking forward to using the system to further refine their SDS management and exploring how the software's workplace labeling capabilities can help him more easily print labels for secondary containers that replicate the original shipped container labels and more easily meet labeling requirements. Porter Logistics is also expanding its bulk chemical transloading practice, often making use of the capabilities of its [rail-served warehouse in Atlanta](#).

"Everything's been great with the software," Foshee concluded. "We've really enjoyed having all our chemical information at our fingertips. It's helped us to stay organized, stay safe and stay in compliance."

About Porter Logistics

Porter Logistics is a leading [Atlanta 3pl](#) offering comprehensive third-party logistics services to some of the leading brands, manufacturers, retailers, and direct sellers in the world. Specializing in regulated industries like Food & Beverage, HAZMAT Chemical, Pharmaceutical, Nutraceutical, and [Cold Storage in Atlanta](#). Porter Logistics has a solution for products requiring extensive compliance and regulatory scrutiny.

With Porter Logistics, brands are able to achieve economies of scale, reduce spend, and bring omnichannel operations under one roof to drive revenue growth and reduce complexity in their supply chain.



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