

Leading Art and Design School Migrates from Homespun SDS System to VelocityEHS



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Alan Cantara

EH&S Manager

Rhode Island School of Design

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- Consistently ranked the top design school in the U.S.
- An urban campus with over 50 buildings
- Using VelocityEHS Chemical Management since 2013

Consistently ranked as the top visual arts school in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*, *Business Insider* and many others, Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) offers degrees in 19 fields to approximately 2,400 students across its Providence campus. Founded in 1877, its alumni range from some of America's most well-known visual artists — such as Roz Chast and Shepard Fairey — to entertainers such as James Franco and Seth MacFarlane, to leaders in finance, e-commerce, and more.

With programs of study ranging from painting to metalsmithing to industrial design, RISD uses a large number of chemicals that require safety data sheets. These chemicals are spread across more than 50 buildings and facilities. For many years, RISD maintained a homegrown intranet system for managing required employee SDS access for these chemicals. However, with increasing

time constraints and the onset of global alignment with GHS, the school began to look for a better solution.

Alan Cantara has been EH&S Manager at RISD for 15 years, and led the transition to VelocityEHS Chemical Management.

"Back in 2009, we first looked at the [VelocityEHS] system," noted Mr. Cantara. "We had our own electronic server database on our local computer system for handling safety data sheets, but updating things took a long time. I'd get an SDS from one of our academic departments for a chemical, and when it was time to update it, we'd have to go online to check for an update from a manufacturer or call them. Let's just say that it was a job! And with GHS alignment then on the horizon, we knew it was time to act. We began looking for a solution. After a bit of research and conversation, a move to VelocityEHS Chemical Management began to make sense for our needs."

In 2013, RISD made the switch to VelocityEHS Chemical Management. Mr. Cantara reports that RISD has been pleased with what the solution has delivered.

"It's been a very, very good product. The SDS's are regularly updated. We no longer have to go looking. It's saved us a large amount of time, allowing us to work more efficiently. For any employees who don't work in an office environment with easy access to computers — like some of our grounds and facilities crews — we can still print out copies of our library and have them in those locations, so we're covered. This is just where we wanted to be."

In addition to the anticipated time-saving benefits, Mr. Cantara also reports that transitioning to VelocityEHS Chemical Management allowed RISD to greatly improve efficiency and safety for campus first responders.



“Our public safety officers have laptops in their vehicles, and have the ability to remotely access SDSs,” says Mr. Cantara. “If there’s an incident, they can pull up ‘Building X’ on the laptop in their cruiser, and see a list of all the chemicals in that location. They know what they’ll have to handle when they arrive. That has been really good. It’s a great feature of the product.”

Whether in a college or university setting or at a corporate facility, VelocityEHS Chemical Management can provide a crucial link between first responders and the potential dangers they face when answering a call. The chemical mapping and Plan1 functions can immediately connect emergency personnel to the lifesaving information that organizations with hazardous chemicals are required to maintain — like safety data sheets and chemical inventories — to help them better assess, plan and prepare for the risks associated with chemical emergencies.

“We have better overall chemical management and safety now,” concludes Mr. Cantara. “It’s a great product. I’d call this a win-win.”

DEMONSTRATING A COMMITMENT TO THE FIRST RESPONDER COMMUNITY

As leaders in safety and compliance, VelocityEHS understands the challenges and risk our nation’s fire, police, and other emergency services personnel face when they arrive on the scene of an incident. When first responders are forced to assess risks and respond to emergencies with inadequate or outdated information, the results can be devastating, especially when hazardous chemicals are involved. Our Plan1 First Responder Share Service gives companies an efficient way to provide emergency response teams with quick and easy access to hazardous chemical inventory information through our cloud-based information sharing service. Developed in collaboration with our customers and with the first responder community, Plan1 creates an opportunity to close the loop on emergency response planning and preparedness through improved communication and access to critical chemical safety information.



Benefits of VelocityEHS Chemical Management

Millions of MSDSs at Your Fingertips

24/7 access to the industry’s leading database of safety data sheets ensures your company’s library is up-to-date and in compliance.

Simplify Compliance

Easy-to-use tools help you meet hazard communication requirements (OSHA / WHMIS / GHS), including hazard determination, right-to-know access, labeling, safe chemical handling, PPE, and more.

Improve Chemical Management

Robust chemical management tools provide greater container-level control over the location, status and risk associated with the chemicals you use. Our free mobile SDS/Chemical Management app lets you scan barcode/QR code labels for in-the-field container management.

Mobile Access

Our online accounts are mobile optimized, and our free SDS/Chemical Management app makes it possible to access SDSs and chemical inventory information offline, when internet connectivity is limited. With these mobile capabilities, critical chemical safety information is always at your fingertips.

Regulatory Compliant

Multiple back-up options mean your system meets OSHA, WHMIS and other regulatory requirements for electronic safety data sheet /chemical management.

Quick ROI & Low Cost of Ownership

VelocityEHS Chemical Management pays for itself by eliminating time-consuming, manual administrative tasks. Plus, there’s no software to install or maintain, and you get immediate access to new features.

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