

A Unique Chemical Company Finds Unique Solutions with VelocityEHS Chemical Management

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Stuart Matthews

Environment, Safety, and Health Manager
New Life Chemical & Equipment

New Life Chemical & Equipment (New Life) is an industry leader in sustainable chemical recycling. New Life buys surplus, orphaned, expired and off-spec chemicals for processing, reuse and resale on the secondary market. Headquartered in Greenville, South Carolina, New Life has a national and international customer base — buying, selling and shipping to locations across the United States and in 20 countries around the globe.

For many years, New Life relied exclusively on a system of paper safety data sheets for providing required chemical hazard information to employees, despite its complex chemical inventory profile. However, in 2014 the company adopted VelocityEHS Chemical Management.

Stuart Matthews — who has been Environment, Safety, and Health Manager at New Life since 2008 — explains the factors behind that transition.

“We only have 35 employees, but we have over 100,000 square-feet of warehouse space with 800 different kinds of chemicals at any given time,” says Mr. Matthews. “On top of that, our business model is atypical. I don’t think OSHA was thinking there would be businesses like ours when they wrote their regulations! We knew GHS alignment was going to be difficult. We always try to do the right thing, and we wanted to be ready for all the new requirements. In addition to GHS being a factor, we once had a small fire at our facility. There were no injuries and the damage was contained, but when the fire department showed up, providing an SDS to the responders did not go as smoothly as they would have liked. We knew there had to be a better way of handling emergency situations.”

Spurred by the dual concerns of GHS alignment and the need to respond better in emergencies, Mr. Matthews pitched his supervisors on VelocityEHS Chemical Management.

New Life Chemical & Equipment

- Operates a 100,000 square-foot chemical recycling facility
- Over 800 different chemicals on-site
- A VelocityEHS Chemical Management customer since 2014

“We had been approached before by [a VelocityEHS competitor] and had taken a look, but we weren’t very impressed by what they offered,” explains Mr. Matthews. “Then we received a call from VelocityEHS, just as we were taking a second look at electronic solutions. What cloud-based VelocityEHS with its VelocityEHS solutions could do was so different from the other guys, it was like night and day. I got my boss into a conference room and showed him how it could help with everything we were facing — getting updated safety data sheets, workplace labels, inventory indexing, and more. My boss was sold the moment my presentation was over!”

New Life adopted VelocityEHS Chemical Management, and also opted for the custom indexing service, which can catalog safety data sheets by any information contained within the 16 sections of an SDS. This improved the company’s access to its chemical information, and has made a dramatic difference on many levels.



"The VelocityEHS solution has brought so many advantages, it's hard to believe we were ever relying on hard copies in file cabinets," he explains. "The solution makes our work easy. Each day we're bringing in everything from surfactants to soaps to solvents. Not all of it arrives properly labeled or aligned with GHS, but now we're prepared for that. We can look up SDS information quickly, and we've bought color printers for making our own labels. We can generate them right from our account. It works great! When it comes to GHS, we don't feel we're going to 'get bitten' if an inspector comes to visit. OSHA will be able to see everything we're doing. We're prepared."

Mr. Matthews also says New Life is better positioned to respond in the event of a future incident.

Mr. Matthews also cites the benefits of using the solution's First Responder Share Service, which gives companies an efficient way to provide emergency response teams with hazardous chemical inventory information via a convenient portal. "We update it all the time because our inventory changes so frequently. I also keep a weatherproof USB around so we can access our SDS information on a laptop or iPad. We've got a better relationship with the fire department now. This has been a step in the right direction."

Mr. Matthews concludes by reporting that the adoption of VelocityEHS Chemical Management has had a positive impact on the timeliness of chemical management at New Life, but also on his time personally.

"To sum up, the whole process is faster now when we bring something on-site," says Mr. Matthews. "If something is not already in our eBinder, then it's in the VelocityEHS database. For the warehouse guys, they never used to like to deal with this stuff, but even they are becoming more computer literate and are using it. It's been gradual for them, but it's happening! I don't have to do all of it. That's good, because I'm busy enough."

THE RIGHT SYNTHESIS OF SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE

Chemical manufacturers face unique challenges when it comes to complying with safety and environmental regulations. They are charged with identifying the hazards of each product they create and communicating that information to downstream importers, distributors, and customers — in addition to their own employees. That's a lot to do! VelocityEHS has a proven track record of helping chemical companies of all types reduce risk, improve efficiencies, and move toward compliance. We specialize in the creation, organization, and deployment of solutions that help businesses meet current and forthcoming OSHA and Health Canada requirements for chemical producers, processors, and recyclers. From looking up common substances to managing and tracking your inventory across multiple locations, we can help make your chemical management run smoothly and safely! Find out why so many leading chemical companies trust VelocityEHS to help them stay safe and compliant, whatever the regulatory environment.

VelocityEHS — Reach Your EHS Goals Faster.

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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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