

# Customer Success Story

## Streamlining EHS Management



### Innovating in Construction Solutions

Recently, VelocityEHS sat down with a leading manufacturer of globally proven construction solutions to discuss how the VelocityEHS Safety Solution has helped them meet their most complex EHS management challenges while building a strong foundation for future ESG excellence. The company has operations in seven countries, with multiple production plants across the US, and more than 1,800 team members. It has always been rooted in innovation, with a strong focus on customer satisfaction and a commitment to improving the sustainability of its industry, along with the health and safety of customers and employees.

Corporate EHS Manager, Jessica Skrehot, strives to meet these commitments each day, especially her company's commitment to the health and safety of their employees. To help achieve this goal, she has been working on streamlining EHS management across the organization. Her vision of consolidating EHS and ESG management systems under a central platform for her company is steadily coming to fruition with the help of VelocityEHS.

Jessica has been working with Velocity for the last six years, and during this time, she has been able to implement a growing number of Velocity solutions to drive continuous improvement of her company's EHS management programs. Her path started with the simple authoring of Safety Data Sheets (SDSs), a service provided by VelocityEHS outside of its EHS and ESG software solutions, but over time and through utilizing VelocityEHS software solutions, she has built an EHS management platform that recently helped her company achieve zero recordable incidents over a three-month period.

### Starting the Journey with SDSs

In 2017, Jessica needed to create some new SDSs, and her company's contract with their previous SDS authoring vendor had recently expired. Due to past challenges with this SDS authoring vendor, Jessica started looking for a new company to partner with and came across VelocityEHS. Velocity was able to author an SDS in a short timeframe, meeting her immediate need and because of her positive experience she began working with them for future SDS updates.

Jessica explained, "I've been working with Velocity for a long time, and at first all we needed was authoring and updating of our SDSs. They were great and we were able to keep our SDSs current. However, as time went on, I began having an issue with making sure our SDSs were accessible to all employees. Our teams were having a hard time transitioning the updated SDSs into the proper locations in a timely manner. I was explaining this to Andrew Kistner, our sales representative, and he told me about the Safety Solution and its Chemical Management capability."

One of the core capabilities of the VelocityEHS Safety Solution is Chemical Management, which includes providing a central location and accessibility for a company's SDS library. This capability offers a cloud-based library, that allows employees to access SDSs anywhere and anytime, even when they're offline. Since VelocityEHS was already updating and authoring SDSs for Jessica's company, implementing the SDS library took the transitioning component off Jessica and her team's plate.



## The Evolution of EHS Management

The SDS library provided a solution to Jessica's SDS challenge, and she soon started talking with VelocityEHS about other solutions they could provide to help with EHS management. Jessica recalled, "As I talked more with Andrew about some of my other challenges concerning job safety analysis (JSAs), audits and inspections, incident management, training and learning, and how time consuming it was to manage all of these in Excel™ and other applications, he explained how the Safety Solution has more capabilities that do much more than SDS management. He told me there are multiple capabilities in the Safety Solution that can help solve these specific pain points. So, I pitched the different capabilities within the Safety Solution to my boss and my boss's boss and they both really liked what this software could do. And that's how we started the process of consolidating our EHS management platform to the VelocityEHS Safety Solution."

The award-winning VelocityEHS Safety Solution includes 10 core capabilities designed to meeting a wide range of EHS management challenges. These intuitive tools include: Incident Management, Chemical Management, Emergency Response Services, Inspection & Observation, Audit, Action Management, Training & Learning, Meetings, Compliance Calendar, and JSAs. The Safety Solution is designed by top EHS experts who have been in Jessica's shoes and are dedicated to providing EHS professionals with the tools they need to better protect the health and safety of all employees.

Jessica received the green light from her company's management, but since this was a new system, the EHS team decided to implement each Safety Solution capability over time. She explained, "We decided to start with Audit and Inspection, and I went to work getting all our external regulations and internal policies uploaded into the system. The entire platform is designed to meet compliance regulations giving us real time updates and visibility. After Audit and Inspection, we brought on JSAs, Training & Learning, and Incident Management. I kept pulling stuff away from HR, such as training and learning and incident management, because from a compliance perspective, having everything in one place makes it much easier to manage and less chaotic."

Jessica continues, "In the past we'd have eight different places our operations teams would have to go to log or pull information for compliance regulations. They don't have the bandwidth to spend all day sitting in front of a computer going from one system to another. It just makes sense to have one platform that can manage all our safety compliance needs—a one-stop shop."

"We've spent a lot of time over the past year or so, really consolidating where and how we're managing our EHS program. Visibility is a big goal for us and being able to consolidate information makes it easy to pull reports and see how we're doing. We've moved everything to Velocity so there aren't things hidden in random places anymore," explained Jessica.

As each new capability was introduced, the EHS team gained better visibility into how each plant was doing and where improvement opportunities were. The VelocityEHS Safety Solution prompts users on what tasks need to be performed and shows the status of those tasks in the process from creation and assignment through to completion and follow-up.

Jessica continued, "Using the Velocity software has helped our performance. We're tracking things better, eliminating extra work, and plants are already seeing improvements in their numbers. We're currently in the process of putting together reminders to help with quality control. For example, we're setting up reminders for the plants to stay on top of equipment maintenance."



As with any new system, there's often resistance to change but due to the user-friendly interface of the software, it didn't take long for the users to start seeing the benefits. "It's a new system for us and at first, we had a little pushback from plant managers, but once they got into the system and saw they could manage everything in one place and how easy it is to navigate it didn't take long for buy-in. We've even had some new plant managers who have come from big corporations like 3M and Kraft who have said this is the best system they've ever worked with. The system is really simple to use, manage, and train others on, plus I'm available to help any of the users with questions or concerns," Jessica explained.

## Continuing to Consolidate EHS Management

The Safety Solution has helped Jessica truly streamline how she manages the company's EHS program. Currently, as the only EHS manager, she has been able to implement and build a system that is accessible, helps to make safety everyone's responsibility, assists in staying on top of the company's compliance requirements, and provides clear visibility and insights into improvement opportunities. Having a central location for all their permits, renewal dates, due dates, documents, SOPs, etc. has made it easy for Jessica and plant managers, located across the country, to access the information they need and track what needs to get done.

As Jessica puts it, "There is no longer missing information or a million hyperlinks to a million different places, it's all in the VelocityEHS Platform, which makes it so much easier to stay on top of things. We now have more time and insight to keep moving up the safety maturity curve working towards preventative risk reduction."

Jessica continued, "My boss is really big on ergonomics and because of the incident reports we've learned most of our injuries are due to strains and repeated movements, so we want to prevent this. We are in the very early stages of bringing on the VelocityEHS Industrial Ergonomics Solution. In addition to the Ergonomics Solution, we have also started implementing the Operational Risk Solution for Management of Change and I'm hoping to bring on the Environmental Compliance Solution for Waste Management next."

In just a few years Jessica has been able to mature and streamline her company's EHS management program with the help of VelocityEHS. As mentioned, the company hasn't had a recordable injury in three months. She has been able to be more proactive in identifying areas for improvements while helping plants simplify compliance requirements. The plant managers no longer need to deal with time-consuming paperwork and can now spend more time meeting their goals and focusing on operational excellence. "We're looking forward to continuing to streamline and mature our EHS management program with Velocity, as well as integrating with the VelocityEHS Accelerate® Platform, because it will broaden the functionalities we currently have, helping to continue to reduce workloads," Jessica concluded.



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