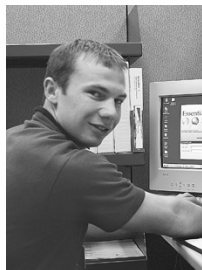


# Penford Products

CASE  
SUMMARY

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## PENFORD PRODUCTS CO.

Cedar Rapids, Iowa  
Linn County

Intern: Kevin Schulte  
Major: Biology  
School: Iowa State University



### The Company

Penford Products Co., a division of Penford Corporation in Bellevue, Washington, supplies paper and textile industries with specialty chemical starches. These starches and other co-products are produced through the corn wet-milling process. The Cedar Rapids site employs approximately 300 individuals.

### Project Background

Penford Products Co. (Penford) is focused on implementing an environmental information management system (EIMS). Penford had purchased Essential Technologies, Essential EH & S™ software. Within this software Penford is utilizing the air, chemical inventory, and Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) modules. The portions the intern concentrated on were the chemical inventory and MSDS modules.

### Incentives to Change

To move in the direction of ISO 14001 certification Penford has an effort underway to implement an EIMS. Two key drivers are enhanced regulatory reporting and improved MSDS management. Regulatory reports are data and calculation intensive. The air and chemical inventory modules can improve data quality, calculations, and decrease time needed to complete reports. Penford's method of MSDS management was difficult to maintain and inefficient. The MSDS and chemical inventory modules can improve MSDS management, which will benefit a variety of departments.



### Results

The chemical inventory module stores all chemical related data to support MSDS management and regulatory reporting of chemical usage, incidents, and permitted air emission releases. As such, it was necessary to establish the chemical inventory module first.

The company's Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) (i.e., all chemicals on-site) were reviewed extensively:

- ◆ The current MSDS management process was identified.
- ◆ The future electronic MSDS management process was documented.
- ◆ MSDS data was standardized and entered into the database.

To support regulatory reporting, chemical incident data was entered into the database.

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Immediate benefits include:

- ◆ Reduced number of people involved in MSDS documentation.
- ◆ Increased employee accessibility.
- ◆ Improved compliance with OSHA hazard communication regulations.
- ◆ Reduced amount of time on regulatory reporting

The extended benefits include saved labor time and possibly increased worker output. Within the EH&S and Customer Service departments, the greatest amount of labor time will be saved. Increased sales may result from future ISO 14001 certification and improved customer satisfaction. Other financial savings can be recognized with improved purchasing and chemical inventory control. The MSDS module allows users to view all products by vendor or name, allowing comparisons between vendors.

Project	Status
Chemical inventory baseline	Complete
MSDS publishing to web-based system	In progress
Database reporting	In progress