

Our Services:

Manufacturing Systems

- Quality
- Datasheets
- Formulations
- Laboratory
- Stock
- Production Management
- SPC
- COMAH

Production Scheduling

- Benefit Analysis
- System Specification
- System Selection
- Implementation

Business Process Modelling

- Re-Engineering
- Technology Impact
- Information Systems

Events

- Seminars
- Conferences
- Workshops

Our Clients:

- ABB
- AEA Technology
- Arthur D Little
- Bridon
- Cambridge Consultants
- DTI
- Eli Lilly
- GlaxoSmithKline
- Hickson
- Humber Chemical Focus
- ICI
- J R Crompton
- Manro
- Newcastle University
- Norsk Hydro
- Roche
- Scott Bader
- Severn Trent Water
- SIRA
- Stepan
- The Carbon Trust
- Yorkshire Forward

(Partial List)

Managing COMAH Compliance In Speciality Surfactants

“ The MS2 system has given the management an easy to use tool, that helps us to manage our inventory and keep below the 2005 COMAH thresholds.”

Philip Clarke
Managing Director, Lakeland Laboratories Ltd



Lakeland Laboratories was formed in 1963 as a surfactant blending company in the North West of England, specialising in cleaning, brewery and laundry products. In the 1970's the company moved away from blended products to concentrate on speciality surfactant manufacturing.

This strategy has been continued with plant expansion and development of ranges of amphoteric, phosphate esters, imidazolines and wax emulsions.

Lakeland Laboratories' traditional market serving the maintenance chemical industry still provides a major source of business. Through continual development, the company has increasingly become known as a major manufacturer of speciality surfactants into Europe and other world markets.

In order to identify the consequences of business growth and new product development on the site's COMAH situation, Lakeland Laboratories implemented the MS² Dynamic COMAH Classification system. Developed by AJM Consulting as part of the MS² Manufacturing Support System, it is designed to help companies with complex stock and materials situations to identify and manage their COMAH liability. At Lakeland Laboratories, models of possible future stock scenarios can be built and the resultant hazard rating of the site analysed in depth. Management can therefore identify business options in the knowledge of the impact on the site's COMAH rating.

The detail of analysis which the system can provide means that both long term (e.g. future product ranges) and short term (e.g. order acceptance) decisions can be made. This is particularly important at present because of the imminent changes to the COMAH regulations which change the thresholds which define a site's COMAH position, and Lakeland Laboratories' management needed to ensure that the company's compliance was not unknowingly affected by either the updated legislation or developing manufacturing activities.

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COMAH

Legislative compliance is probably the most important issue facing the UK's chemical industries today. The COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) regulations require that sites which hold hazardous materials over a defined quantity implement procedures which can be complex and costly. This may be avoided by holding a quantity which is less than required for registration under the act – and for many reasons it is good practice to hold low stocks anyway. In practice the calculation involved in determining the COMAH situation for a typical speciality chemical site is quite complex and beyond the scope of spreadsheets.

Whether or not a site needs to register as a COMAH site is dependent on the quantities and hazard ratings of all materials held on site. With Lakeland Laboratories' complex materials storage situation the system needs to include many materials and storage locations in its scenario modelling calculation.

Validation

With a calculation of this complexity it is necessary to ensure that every item of stock has been included in the calculation - otherwise an erroneously low hazard rating would be the result. The MS2 system ensures that all necessary data are present, such as the quantity of material, the type of quantity units in which stock is expressed, the specific gravity if needed, and so on. For each stock entry, the system also checks that the material has been allocated to a COMAH classification. Entries with missing data are indicated as errors.

Stock Hazard Identification

One of the principal benefits of the system is an accurate stock hazard report showing the quantities and principal hazards of all materials on site - an obvious benefit when implementing plans for emergency management. Another important feature is its ability to hold electronic versions of material safety data sheets, further enabling it to assist in the event of a site emergency.

Archiving and Audit Capability

The ability to retrieve historic data relating to COMAH is essential. MS² provides historic trending with comprehensive "drill down" to all components of the calculation, showing when stock readings were taken, what hazard categories were allocated to each stock item and so on. Any potential calculation errors caused by missing data are also shown, providing a comprehensive audit trail.

System Development

The solution developed for Lakland Laboratories is a development of the existing MS² system, with specific needs of SMEs taken into account. It is capable of running on a network or as a standalone system and has extensive validation to simplify training and use.

Our Capability

The MS² suite of applications is developed specifically for the chemical and related downstream industries. Its great flexibility allows it to be applied in situations as diverse as an industry support agency like Humber Chemical Focus, a complex batch chemical plant and a contract packaging contractor. It is designed to provide functions which are not commonly available but which add value to the organisation, and to do so in a highly cost-effective way. Its power can be increased further by integration with other systems such as production scheduling or process monitoring and control.

With our background in chemical sector consulting we understand many issues which the industry faces and can apply that understanding to the design of specific solutions, further increasing the speed of implementation and the benefits of those solutions.



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