

Peer Mentoring Workgroup: *Best Practices in Proactive Chemicals Management*

Peer Mentoring Workgroups

An important goal of the Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI) is to encourage companies to share their knowledge and techniques to achieve toxics use reduction or resource conservation. The development, promotion and dissemination of sound practices designed to help companies systematically assess their use of chemicals in both processes and products manufactured is one important mechanism for reducing the use of toxic chemicals in the Commonwealth. Working as peer mentors, the workgroup can find innovative ways to address challenges and facilitate more rapid implementation of systems that incorporate toxics use reduction in their facilities. TURI helps support this type of learning through small grants to a host facility.

Proactive Chemicals Management

The goal of an effective chemicals management system is to achieve meaningful toxics use reduction, anticipate future global chemical restrictions and other business risks, and maintain and support continued competitive advantage. Starting in June 2015, a group of Massachusetts industry peers have gathered monthly to share and develop best practices for proactive chemicals management. The 2015 Peer Mentoring Workgroup is hosted by Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics (Siemens) and led by Kevin Johnson, Director of Global EHS Systems. Kevin is joined by environmental health and safety and sustainability focused colleagues from Analog Devices, Inc., Essilor USA/Gentex Optics, Waters Corporation, Entegris, Inc., EMD Millipore, MassMEP, and Biogen. Other companies are invited to join the workgroup meetings.

A roadmap for the meetings was developed by the group, and includes presentations by developers of new and relevant chemicals management tools (see next page). Meetings are held either at the Siemens site in Norwood MA, or at another member's facilities. Sites chosen correspond with the company most interested in leading the particular topic to be discussed. Participants come to meetings prepared to share tools, tips and questions related to the effective implementation of chemicals management practices at their own facilities. TURI helps develop each meeting's agenda, and brings information on emerging tools and research related to the topic being discussed.

One of the benefits of the Workgroup is the network of peers with whom the members can continue to share information and best practices. Additionally, TURI will publish a case study and/or journal article describing the best practices identified by members of the Workgroup in an effort to further disseminate the lessons learned.

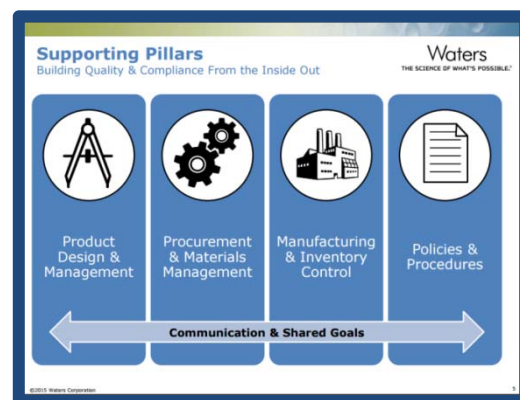


Members of the Peer Mentoring Workgroup share lessons learned and best practices at the November 2015 TURA continuing education conference in Lowell, MA

Peer Mentoring Workgroup: Meeting Roadmap

Month	Proactive Chemicals Management Topics Discussed
June 2015	Kick-off: Presentation of Siemens work to better integrate proactive chemicals management into its product development processes
July 2015	Benchmarking progress: The Chemical Footprint Project (web-based meeting led by Mark Rossi of Clean Production Action)
August 2015	Identifying chemicals of concern: Drivers, key concerns and tools for prioritization
September 2015	Best practices for engaging the supply chain: Requesting and verifying chemicals information
October 2015	Internal controls to promote proactive chemicals management in facilities and products: Distributing responsibility and utilizing tools to minimize corrective actions
December 2015	Best practices in communicating with internal and external stakeholders: Understanding and consistently communicating your company's goals
January 2016	Identifying safer solutions: Connecting your engineering and R&D teams with external resources to maximize success
February 2016	Intersection of communications and relevant management systems like ISO 14001: Integrating methods across business units
March 2016	Incorporating life cycle thinking into chemicals management planning: Considering the key leverage points for change
April 2016	Best practices in reducing packaging materials and minimizing their use of chemicals of concern
May 2016	Best practices in proactively engaging with your suppliers: Developing a more resilient value chain
June 2016	Linking chemicals management to your corporate and/or facility goals and initiatives: Bringing it all together

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Example of how one peer company integrates chemicals management across its operations