



In our interview: Birgit Schmidt, Central Materials Laboratory. At the automobile industry supplier Brose, she is the coordinator for product-related substance prohibitions and SAP/EH&S.

Mrs. Schmidt, how do you as an automobile industry supplier manage documentation with IMDS? Which challenges do you encounter? And which advantages do you see in using IMDS in comparison with company-specific solutions?

Brose was one of the first companies to register in the International Material Data System (IMDS). I have been working with it since 2003 and realize that it is becoming more and more important to know the exact composition of a respective product. With the IMDS, this information is aggregated on part level.

I think that - taking into account the data overload - a company-specific solution cannot be as efficient. These manual processes need more effort and are error-prone.

The challenge in the automobile industry is the shorter and shorter development time for new products. Without a system like IMDS, a direct and efficient information flow within the supply chain and a timely sampling to the customer would not be possible.

With the IMDS we get validation and documentation concerning legal substance regulations. Additionally, the application is automatically compliant with Art. 33 of the REACH regulation. The article states that under certain preconditions there is an information obligation towards the customer. This is a great advantage for the automobile industry.

What do you expect from IMDS in the future, in which aspects could IMDS further support you?

As already mentioned, there are a large number of environmental legislations world-wide. Currently, the RoHS Directive for the limited use of certain hazardous substances in electric and electronic devices and the EU regulation REACH are of great importance. Furthermore, there are customer-specific requirements from the automobile OEMs. Brose needs a system which is globally set up and reflects these requirements.

Thank you for this interview Mrs. Schmidt!

About Brose

Brose is world-wide the fifth-largest automotive supplier in family ownership. The company develops and produces mechatronic systems for vehicle doors and seats as well as electric engines and power units. More than 24,000 employees at 60 locations in 23 countries generate a revenue of 6.1 billion Euro. Each second new car world-wide is equipped with a least one Brose product.