What Does Forward Mean and How it Works

Version: IMDS Release 10.0
Many companies only “pass through” the product – they do not add anything to the product that remains on the vehicle as sold. (Example: put a service part in a box for resale.)
Recipient-specific Data Screen - Supplier

On the recipient data page, there is an option for the MDS creator to indicate whether his customer is allowed to forward the MDS to their customer or must attach it to another MDS.

For legacy data created prior to Release 2.2, the forward flag has been set to no.
Recipient-specific Data Screen - Customer

If you can forward this directly, you will see it here before you accept. In this case, the MDS is not accepted yet. You must accept the MDS before you can forward.

Indicates whether you will be able to forward or not
Find the MDS to Forward

Start with finding the MDS on the search screen – suggest searching on “accepted” MDSs.

Highlight the MDS and right-click.

Choose **Forward**.
Create Forward Copy

A message will indicate that you can only release internally or propose.

Click on OK.
Forwarded Tree – Cannot Change

Since you are only forwarding, you cannot change the tree – no option to add or delete.

We’ll go on to Supplier Data.
Forwarded MDS – Supplier Data

Since you have the relationship with your customer as the last owner of record, you need to supply a contact in your company if there are questions.
Forwarded MDS – Recipient Data

Until you select a recipient, your only choice is Internal – this MDS is already released to your IMDS company when you accept so there is no good reason to Internally release the forwarded copy - you cannot attach this forwarded copy to a tree.

Add a recipient.
Forwarded MDS – Company Data

On the company page, the description is copied, but the part number is blanked out – you need to supply your customer’s part number.

Also, you need to determine whether you’ll allow your customer to forward this.

When done, select Save.
Forwarded MDS – Propose

Now you have the option to Propose to your customer. You cannot Send because you cannot make any changes to the tree.

Select Propose and complete as usual.
Search – What Has Happened

What has happened is that the system created a copy of the MDS that was received. Each has its own IMDS ID. Your customer will not see that the MDS they received is forwarded nor who the original creator is.

We have 2 MDSs – one that was sent by HPE China and one that was created just now by IH Automotive.
As mentioned earlier, you are actually making a copy when you forward. To see the Original, click in the Menu “MDS” on Forward > Original MDS.
As mentioned earlier, you are actually making a copy when you forward. To see the any Forwarded copy, click on the Menu “MDS” on Forward > Forwarded MDS. You can only make one forwarded copy.
Only One Forward Copy Allowed

If you try to make a 2nd forward copy, you will receive an error and not be allowed to perform that operation.
Copy Not Allowed

If you try to make copy/new version or copy/copy of the forwarded MDS, you will receive an error message.
Attaching Not Allowed

If you try to attach the forwarded copy (so as to mask your supplier to your customer), you will get an error message.
Limited Forwarding with Confidential

In another case, a material was sent with substances marked confidential at the first level. When you try and create a copy/forward, you get an error message – the system will not let you.
Outbox View

The forwarded copy, after proposing, looks no different in the Sent box.
Finding Forwarded MDSs at Your Customer

On Sent you can filter for MDSs forwarded to your customer. In this example, only the forwarded copy is presented.
Receiving a New Version of an MDS You’ve Forwarded

My supplier has sent a new version (not a copy/copy) of an MDS that I’ve forwarded. A warning message is generated.

When you say **OK**, another message will be generated that says that only Supplier Data and Recipient data can be modified.
Version of New Forward Copy

When the new version is created, it will be a new version of the forwarded copy.
And the recipient information is kept – just as with a normal copy/new version.