New IMDS Function:
IMDS Substance Applications
(for IMDS release 3.0)

The IMDS system contains many basic substances. Some are marked “duty to declare” or “prohibited”. Basic substances, that are marked as “prohibited” should not be used anywhere in the automotive industry except for certain applications (valid for a defined time based on legal requirements). Applications are also defined for the basic substances that are marked as “duty-to-declare”. The application information is necessary for the OEMs in order to comply with Annex II and other environmental regulations. With release 3.0, when using a restricted substance, you must also declare how you are using it – or supply an Application Code.

Initially, the application information is based on the current Annex II regulations and requirements. Annex II can be found on Public Pages > FAQ > Data Requirements > Where can I find the ELV Directive and the latest version of Annex II?

Temporarily, sending MDSs without Application codes on previously “released” MDSs between suppliers will be possible. However, the business rules of your customer may require you to update the MDS to include the Application Code in order for it to be accepted. In a future release, changes in applications (text values) or assignment to basic substances will require new MDS versions.

When sending to an OEM, you must supply application codes (if codes are missing, you will get an error in the check procedure). Tier1 suppliers are required to supply application codes for ‘historically’ referenced material MDSs. This means that after selection of an OEM as an MDS recipient, a screen will appear that will request the Application codes for the previously released MDSs.

Application codes are assigned when attaching the material to a component MDS. For materials or semi-components, Application codes do not have to be provided. Depending on the substance and the classification of the material where the substance is used, the system will provide a list of available Application codes. In certain instances, where the Application code is fairly clear, the system will pre-select an Application code. For example, it will select “impurity” as the Application Code where certain thresholds are not exceeded - such as 0.1 % for Hg, Pb, Cr6 and 0.01% for Cd.

Release 3.0 requires Application codes for lead (and all of its compounds), hexavalent chromium (and all of its compounds), mercury (and all of its compounds), cadmium (and all of its compounds), Nickel and Polycyclic aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAH). Application codes will only be displayed in English – independent from the language in which the IMDS user is logged on.

1.1 Applications available for Basic Substances

Associated with the additional basic substance list is another file containing the Application Codes for these substances. Application codes are a text string that describes the usage of the basic substance within the containing material.

Since the same basic substance may have different Application Codes, a separate file contains the relation between the basic substances and a set of applications. The same Application code may be used for different basic substances. To reduce the number of Application codes shown for a specific substance, there is also a relationship between Application codes to material classifications. This avoids having Application code options that do not make sense, thereby improving data quality. For example, the user is not shown and therefore cannot select the Application code "Steel containing lead" for lead within an aluminum material.
1.2 Entering MDS and Application Information

Since Application codes are related to where a material is used, the Application code is entered whenever a new material is attached to the tree of an MDS.

Application codes may be viewed by selecting the material within the component where it is attached. Application codes may be changed as long as the MDS is still in edit mode. The same applies to the applications entered for older material MDS references.

During the check procedure, missing Application Codes may generate either a fatal error or a warning. If the information is missing on an MDS the User’s company owns, it will be a fatal error and the Application Codes will have to be supplied prior to release. If the information is missing on an MDS that has been supplied by another company, it will be a warning. Since it is impossible to add Application Codes to an already productive (released) MDS, the user must create a new version of the MDS and add the missing applications.

Tier1 suppliers must provide missing application data. For all material MDS references that do not have applications assigned (because it is historic data) the user must complete those before sending the MDS to an OEM.

1.3 Adding Materials and Editing Applications

When adding a material or editing the applications, a window similar to the following will appear. The detailed view of each material will have 2 tabs. The first tab, Details, contains the information about the material the user is used to seeing. The second tab, Application, contains all substances of the material that require Application Codes.

When the user clicks on the application field, all possible Application Codes for that substance on that material will be displayed.

Fig. 1 – Entering Application Data (part 1)

The application for a specific basic substance can be selected on another window:
**Fig. 2 – Entering Application Data (part 2)**

**Fig. 3 – Entering Application Data (part 3)**
1.4 **Required information**

When application data is missing or selected applications are invalid, errors or warnings are created by the check procedure depending on the owner of the data. The following figure shows the check result with the error message:

![Fig. 4 – Result of Check Procedure](image)

1.5 **Previous OEM specific implementation of “application ID”**

An implementation of "application ID" was already productive for certain OEMs. In this case, the question for applications was part of the recipient specific information window (chapter 4). If another recipient than one of the certain OEMs was selected, this question did not appear. The solution in Release 3.0 will replace the previous implementation. The question in chapter 4 will not appear any more. Since Application codes are implemented entirely differently in Release 3.0 than in the previous releases, data previously supplied cannot be transferred to the MDS by the system.