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SPECIFICATION MANAGEMENT HACKS YOU CAN STEAL TO MAINTAIN PACKAGING COMPLIANCE FOR DANGEROUS GOODS

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Introduction

In the dangerous goods (also known as hazardous materials) industry, there's a lot riding on whether or not your packaging is compliant.

From fines, to consumer injury, to environmental considerations, **noncompliance harms more than just your business.**

However, compliance for dangerous goods packaging is extremely complex.

And in the dangerous goods industry, **poor data management can put product safety in jeopardy.**

Packaging engineers deserve a seat at the table when it comes to decision making and data management, but in reality, are often left in the dark.

Here are 3 ways you can use Specification Management to ensure packaging compliance for your dangerous goods.

01 SET COMPLIANCE GUARDRAILS WITH AUDITING

Auditing is the foundation of compliance. To be compliant, it's critical to understand where you are in order to get to where you want to be.

> Whether auditing is on internal or external stakeholders, it helps ensure everyone is held accountable and understands what steps must be taken to reach compliance.

By managing audits on the specification level, it's easy to center your packaging development cycle around compliance.

Here's a few tips for successful auditing with specification management:

Tie audits to product specifications and lot codes, as well as any files associated with the audit. By linking specs, auditing becomes a part of the packaging development workflow, as design can't move forward until the audit is completed and approved.

Auditing at the spec level can be done on anything from materials, to designs, to finished goods. By using spec management, it's easy to standardize data and ensure all important data points are connected.

02 INCREASE VISIBILITY INTO COMPLIANCE WITH SPECIFICATION CHANGE HISTORY DATA

Version control is another common culprit when it comes to compliance.

Products change a lot, and so does packaging. But when these two departments aren't constantly communicating with one another, sharing the latest specification data, issues begin to arise.

Visibility into versioning and spec change history can mean safety from a hazardous spill or prevention of consumer endangerment.

This is why businesses look to Spec Management to help.

Specification Management enables users to track spec changes and history for best in class traceability. By linking this information to the finished good spec, it's easy to access all of its past versions and understand who changed what and when.

In addition to always having access to the most up-to-date specs, old versions can function as an idea repository to refine and build off of later.

03 USE APPROVAL WORKFLOWS TO INCREASE COLLABORATION FOR COMPLIANCE

Packaging compliance has a lot of moving parts, and most solutions aren't designed to be as collaborative as they need to be.

By setting up approval workflows, you're creating a digitized compliance roadmap.
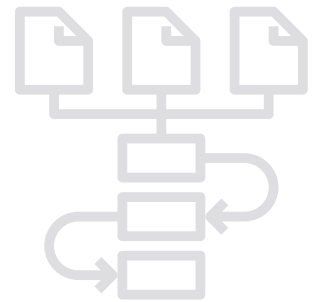
Prevent important action items from falling through the cracks and keep mistakes from happening down the line.

Approval workflows should be used to route all associated specs, such as test data, labeling specs, package design specs, and more. This way, all departments can see where the project stands.

Managing approvals via specs is powerful. Instead of simply checking a box, spec management forces users to act, linking resulting specs to the approval record.

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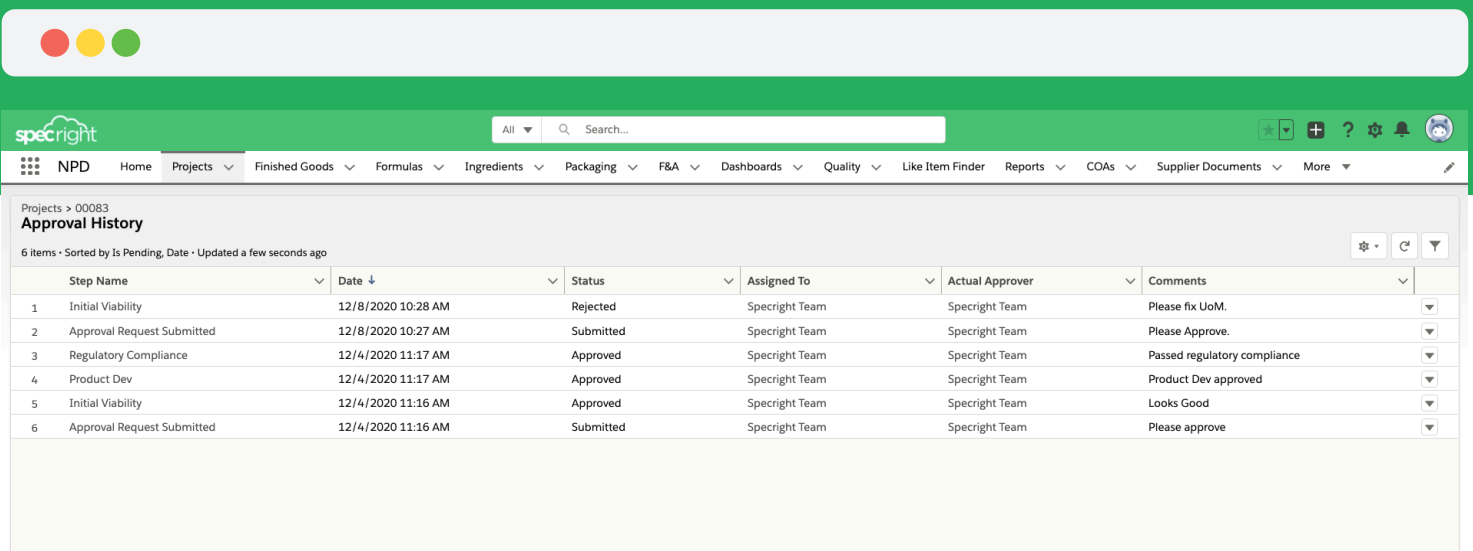|	Step Name	Date ↓	Status	Assigned To	Actual Approver	Comments	
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Compliance is like a puzzle, and today most company's solutions are missing pieces.

Before Specright, compliance was seen as an afterthought, when in reality, it should be present throughout the entire project. Now, packaging engineers can rest assured that they have the data they need to their jobs well.

Webinar

Packaging Compliance: The Achilles Heel of the Dangerous Goods Industry

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WATCH WEBINAR

WEBINAR – PACKAGING COMPLIANCE: THE ACHILLES HEEL OF THE DANGEROUS GOODS INDUSTRY

All too often, packaging compliance takes a back seat in the product development cycle.

And companies get far into product development only to find they aren't compliant, wasting resources and forcing them to start at square one.

Watch our webinar to learn how companies are using Specright to ensure compliance when packaging dangerous goods.

Here's a preview of what you'll learn:

- How to Digitize Dangerous Goods Specs So Nothing Slips Through the Cracks

- Better Document Management and Version Control Processes

- How to Build a Stakeholder Network to Streamline Regulatory Compliance Activities

Find Out What Specright Can do For You
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Contact us to get **a free demo of Specright**, the leading Specification Management platform, and take control of packaging compliance today.