Case Study:

Risk Management with ADVISETM

Pharmaceutical Research & Development Company Cambridge, MA

Situation

When a major pharmaceutical research & development company located in Cambridge, MA underwent a restructuring of its environmental health and safety (EHS) department, Triumvirate Environmental was asked to augment its onsite EHS lab services with consulting services. The R&D company looked to Triumvirate for EHS program review, short-term and long-term risk identification, risk reduction strategy development, and EHS program management. Although the company's EHS department shrank in size as a result of the restructuring, Triumvirate upheld health and safety by using technical skills to measure risk, assess where that risk lay, and implement initiatives to mitigate it.

Action

Triumvirate began the EHS consulting process by reviewing existing permits and plans and by auditing the procedures and practices in the research labs around the facility. By using ADVISE, Triumvirate's EHS management software tool, our consultants performed EHS compliance inspections including chemical hygiene, chemical storage, PPE, and waste management. Inspection results were recorded in real time using iPhones and were then loaded into the web-based software.

This data was collected once a week for a month. Once all of the data was collected, ADVISE analytics clearly and precisely quantified EHS compliance and identified risks. Graphs summarized the data, and tables below detailed each instance of compliance violation. The information was presented at an executive leadership meeting to gain the support of upper management and to identify some of the high-risk practices and procedures in the labs. More detailed reports were then used in monthly safety committee meetings to identify risk and articulate the case for better compliance. Once there was support from the executive team and the safety committee, the data was used to address specific problems and risks on the research level.

Result

The compliance data gathered during weekly lab inspection using ADVISE clearly quantified compliance performance and identified high-risk problems, practices and labs. Data reporting from ADVISE helped the EHS department to gain the support of the executive team and the safety committee. More detailed reporting identified specific issues on the lab-level, which made it easy to act on. The initiatives developed by the safety committee reduced compliance violation rates.

Weekly inspections are still being completed six months later; the highest risks to the company have been addressed and now the data is being used to identify smaller risks. With the support of Triumvirate's EHS consulting team and ADVISE analytics, this pharmaceutical research company was able to baseline their EHS performance, identify high risk areas, mitigate those risks, and develop long-term EHS management systems.



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