

Formulators are required by some retailers to provide detailed information on chemical-containing consumer products.

ARCADIS Global Product Stewardship Practice can provide full support to formulators to efficiently meet these new demands of the retail trade.

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## Addressing Retailer “Right to Know” Requirements

### The Challenge

The retail trade is placing steep demands on product formulators for detailed environmental and regulatory information on chemical-containing consumer products on their store shelves. They believe that their customers have a “right to know” more information than is typically conveyed on product packaging. Retailers can also use this information to better comply with state and federal requirements on disposal practices and spill responses.

This creates a major burden on formulators, to assemble, maintain, and update this information for new or improved products, often under tight time constraints. Some formulators have found it cost-effective to outsource the program to competent and trusted extramural services.

### Background

Wal\*Mart was among the first to require that their suppliers of chemical-containing products provide extensive and cumbersome data about their products. Consumer product categories that are impacted are broad. They include cleaning products, floor-care products, and beauty care products. Under Wal\*Mart’s system, formulators must provide environmental and regulatory data to a third-party system (WERCS), and the data must undergo extensive review to ensure their policies are satisfied. Other retailers, such as Sears/K-Mart, are in the process of implementing similar disclosure policies.

### Cost-Effective Out-Sourcing to Meet the Challenge

ARCADIS is providing the following services to support formulators meet the right-to-know demands of the retail trade

- Review supplier’s current Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) to determine if data will meet retailer’s standards and work with appropriate Regulatory contacts to obtain updated MSDS and identify percentages for regulated ingredients.
- Populate the WERCS system with Transportation Data, Disposal Guidelines, Regulated Ingredient Data, Physical/Chemical Properties, and any UPC’s associated with the product.
- Process requests from formulator teams to update the system when new products are launched or new UPCs are added. Turnaround times are same-day, in most cases, to meet the urgent needs of both the formulator and the retailer.
- Replace old submissions in the system when an MSDS has been revised.
- Act as an interface between the retailer and the formulator for questions that arise surrounding product data entered into the system.