

Supply Chain Success Story:

Rinchem Company, Inc.

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Rinchem Company, Inc. is a chemical management solutions provider with proven expertise in creating and managing safe and efficient supply chains for high purity, pre-packaged chemicals and gases. They apply three decades of team-building and innovation to provide the most reliable, efficient, and cost-effective solutions for their customers. Their services include warehousing, transportation, training and consulting.

Rinchem operates a broad network of temperature-controlled, hazardous materials compliant warehouses at locations across North America and in parts of Europe, the Middle East and Asia. They field a team of more than 100 hazmat-trained drivers with temperature-controlled, hazmat-customized trucks and trailers.

Rinchem's transportation and warehousing network are linked through a proprietary, web-enabled software that provides customers with real-time visibility into inventory location and status.

Greening the chemical supply chain

In 2017, the Rinchem facility located in Hillsboro, Oregon took the initiative to collaborate with its customers to divert over 270,000 pounds of process chemical products (commonly used chemicals) stored at the Rinchem facility, that in the past were managed as hazardous waste on behalf of Rinchem customers due to quality concerns or expiration date. Rinchem and one of its customers initiated a resale program that find buyers for the usable chemicals that can benefit a wider range of industrial manufacturing needs.

The major challenge was ensuring that all employees who manage a customer's inventories of process chemical products stored at Rinchem Hillsboro knew what process the chemicals products are involved in and what chemicals can be diverted to the resale program. Rinchem Hillsboro and its

chemical customers were able to overcome this challenge by communicating WHEN the chemicals that were slated for disposal could be diverted into the resale program. Additionally, Rinchem Hillsboro is



developing a process with its customers to assure that empty containers of process chemical products consumed at their own facilities, meet the

'RCRA Empty Container' definition to reduce the need for residual chemicals becoming hazardous waste. The process includes communicating the various ways of employing "common emptying" practices. This effort also has the benefit of helping Rinchem Hillsboro to lower their hazardous waste generation.

Future efforts

Rinchem is now looking at another process chemical inclusion into the resale program. Another area being researched is the recycling of chemicals that may end up as waste. With a potential to distill larger amounts of waste solvents, a tertiary business opportunity may arise.

"Supply Chain work success is usually the result of building relationships and maintaining communication links at all the necessary levels of stakeholders to be able to identify and act on opportunities as they arise."

- Jeff Callahan, Rinchem Company, Inc.

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State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

Northwest Region Materials Management Hazardous Waste

700 NE Multnomah Street
Suite 600
Portland, OR 97232
Phone: 503-229-5153
800-452-4011
Fax: 503-229-6899

Contact: [David Kunz](mailto:David.Kunz@deq.or.gov)

www.oregon.gov/DEQ