

Company Profile

Gabriel Performance Products, LLC (Gabriel) is a custom manufacturer of specialty chemicals. We produce a variety of proprietary products serving the following markets: polymer, adhesives, sealants, agriculture, and raw materials for pharmaceuticals. Gabriel also provides toll manufacturing services for an array of Fortune 100 companies.

Gabriel's legacy dates to 1955, when the Archer Daniels Midland Company began developing what is today our 40-acre plant site in Ashtabula, Ohio. The facility was previously owned and operated by Diamond Shamrock and Occidental Chemical Corporation until June 2001 when it became Gabriel Performance Products. The company has been privately held since 2006. Today, Gabriel employs 70 people with annual sales exceeding \$20MM.



EHS&S Background

Prior to adopting the ChemStewards® program, Gabriel participated in Responsible Care. We also maintained various programs of the environment, health, safety, and security systems (EHS&S) from our parent companies. While these separate systems were mature and helped us maintain compliance, they were, nonetheless, cumbersome. We recognized that we needed to focus on continuous improvement and turned our attention to ChemStewards.

In 2008 the organization decided to participate in ChemStewards as a means to adapt the company's EHS&S management system into a comprehensive program. The goal was to have a single management system that was focused on stakeholders and would improve the company as a whole. In 2010, Gabriel combined its ISO 9001, 14001, and 18001 systems under the ChemStewards umbrella, creating a single comprehensive management system we call the "Integrated Management System".

Benefits of ChemStewards Implementation

Employee Health & Safety

The employees at Gabriel actively live the ChemStewards principles through our Integrated Management System. As a result, we have improved how efficiently we manage our EHS&S activities, as well as product stewardship, and are able to quickly identify and resolve issues. One of the most relevant improvements has been the reduction in time to prepare for and successfully run customer and regulatory audits. In 2010 alone, Gabriel completed 7 audits from customers, federal regulatory agencies, and other stakeholders. Each audit was a great success and we have been regularly commended on our level of preparation and ability to answer questions quickly and thoroughly.

Gabriel consistently strives to maintain high standards of compliance. We strive for continuous improvement and capture our best practices with thorough documentation and data review. Through ChemStewards, we analyze risks and create projects to mitigate them in all areas. The program has already paid dividends in time savings and in driving organizational accountability. Most significantly, ChemStewards has helped us distinguish ourselves from competitors.

Pollution Prevention

Gabriel is fully committed to the continuous improvement of our overall performance. We consistently look for ways to optimize manufacturing processes to increase recycling and decrease the amount of waste that is generated. Due to the nature of toll manufacturing, it is difficult to compare waste generation on an annual basis. Instead we focus on optimizing our systems. For example, our use of chemicals on the Toxic Release Inventory depends largely on the specific needs of our customers. As a result of these efforts, Gabriel has seen a decrease in the ratio of wastes to products generated. Additionally, we recover solvents, re-use clean out solutions where appropriate, and recover all samples, line drains, and similar materials back to our processes.

Community Outreach

Gabriel is an active member of several community programs in Ashtabula including the Local Emergency Planning Commission and the Ashtabula Community Advisory Panel. Our employees also participate in the local YMCA Board, serve on the County Metro Park Board of Directors, and donate to the United Way. As part of our efforts to foster greater understanding of chemical operations, Gabriel frequently discusses its commitment to performance improvement with members of the public.

Cost Benefits

ChemStewards has been instrumental in driving our attention to the cost savings associated with our EHS&S responsibilities. By fully integrating our ISO systems with ChemStewards, we have successfully made improvements in the areas of work practices, awareness and planning, which allows us to operate efficiently, safely, and consistently. For example, our company has developed metrics to track proactivity – that is near misses and quick wins. We also cut our non-hazardous wastes costs by 20%. In 2010, we avoided several hundred thousand dollars in lost revenue by simply increasing attention to detail.

The other payback is marketability. We are proud to be able to showcase the rigors of ChemStewards and our ISO systems to our customers. In doing so, they understand our strong commitment to EHS&S policies and procedures and feel comfortable putting their trust in us.

*For companies who are thinking about implementing ChemStewards, our response is this:
Quit considering and do it!*

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Other Benefits

ChemStewards is the foundation from which Gabriel has built a solid and effective EHS&S management system. The program's tools not only protect our employees and the community, but facilitate everything we do. Furthermore, as a ChemStewards participating facility, our customers have the assurance that we will treat their projects with the utmost responsibility and care, which is a value to our sales team.

SOCMA has been an excellent organization for Gabriel. We have taken every opportunity to be involved and take part in events such as the EHS&S networking events, allowing us to share best practices with fellow member companies. We also have attended SOCMA CONNECT events in Washington, DC to provide lawmakers with our perspective on laws and regulations impacting the industry.

Gabriel also participates in the Informex trade show and has made many important contacts and gained new customers at each event. In all, our SOCMA membership has paid for itself many times over.

For companies who are thinking about implementing ChemStewards, our response is this: Quit considering and do it! The ChemStewards program is an excellent program for EHS&S and readily acts as a standalone management system, with the added value of being able to tie very nicely into other management systems. We have found that combining ChemStewards with our ISO 9001, 14001, and OHSAS 18001 systems has created a very comprehensive holistic system, that drives improvements, drive accountability, and generate results.

SOCMA Contact

Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates

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