

MSA | Americas | United States | Manufacturing

Automated Compliance Controls Keep Global Operations Running Smoothly

MSA Safety Incorporated: Protecting Lives for Over 100 Years

When a devastating accident took the lives of 80 miners in 1914, John T. Ryan, the founder of MSA - The Safety Company, knew he had to act. That was the beginning of MSA - The Safety Company, a global organization committed to developing, manufacturing and supplying safety products that help protect people and places around the world.

Approximately 4,800 employees strong, MSA protects workers in over 140 countries with products that include self-contained breathing apparatus, fixed gas and flame detection systems, portable gas detection instruments, industrial head protection products, fire and rescue helmets, and fall protection devices.

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Rachel Kromka, SAP Security Analyst

SAP Landscape

MSA runs its business using SAP® ERP Central Component (ECC) 6.0. With 2,800 users across approximately 100 configured company codes/plants, the system touches every part of MSA's organization and is an integral component of its IT infrastructure.

MSA is a global organization where most of their SAP users are located in the United States followed by Germany. MSA also runs SAP BW, SAP CRM, SAP B1, and SAP Success Factors. Additionally, there are a handful of non-SAP systems adding to the complexity of their landscape.

Manual Processes Drive the Need for Change

Following the results of an audit of their internal controls, it was noted that they could improve the controls related to segregation of duties (SoD) / sensitive access (SA). While there were some controls in place, the auditing process was driven manually by way of running a report, printing, reviewing, signing and filing. Auditors then had to check the printed reports for completeness as well as any errors.

As with any organization using manual processes, this opened MSA up to the risk for human error as well as inability to easily detect SOD / SA issues. On top of that, the manual processes lead to lengthy and costly audits.

To remediate this, MSA required a role redesign and further established goals to:

- Implement a stronger SoD/SA review process
- Automate IT-related Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) controls
- Store SOX-supporting documents electronically to allow for easier review and monitoring

Automated Compliance Solutions

These goals led MSA to partner with NTT to implement its ControlPanelGRC® solution which allows an organization to define all access controls across the company. Upon deployment, they began to transfer their manual process for executing and overseeing quarterly access reviews and SOX controls to an automated process. Following the success of Phase 1, MSA extended the implementation yet again in 2014 by adding more modules to their suite. "The addition of ControlPanelGRC has changed the game for us. It's helped us to better define access controls for our entire organization and it gives us visibility over those controls. It also lets us track control reviews. Our approach to defining and managing access controls is on par with any other industry-leading manufacturer," says Rachel Kromka, SAP Security Analyst.

Now more than seven years into the partnership, the efficiencies ControlPanelGRC has delivered to MSA are astounding. Rachel continues, "The audit process is no longer the headache it once was, since we can now access all our data and documents from one place – no more searching for information at the eleventh hour. And everything is electronic and automated, so there are no more manual paper reviews. This also cuts down on auditing fees, so there's a cost savings as well as a time savings."

Perhaps best of all, ControlPanelGRC, has made it much simpler for MSA's security and compliance team to ensure that operations are running as they should be. Rachel adds, "From the ability to develop organizational-level templates to the mass removing or assigning of roles, we can batch and automate similar tasks that would previously have had to be done one by one. And we can do it all in just a few clicks. The time we're cutting out of the process is incredible, and that's time we can devote to other more strategic initiatives. Not to mention, it eliminates the likelihood of human error along the way. ControlPanelGRC is absolutely a security analyst's dream come true."

Is ControlPanelGRC Right for You?

ControlPanelGRC is a continuous controls monitoring platform for SAP environments written, implemented and supported by GRC professionals. The software suite provides visibility into potential risks, robust reporting and analytics functionality, and simple mitigation controls—all according to industry standards and best practices.

Whether you're an SAP professional, internal auditor, compliance leader or IT executive, with ControlPanelGRC, you can ensure you're Always Audit Ready™. Reach out to our experts today to learn more and see how we can help drive greater security and efficiency in your organization.

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