

## CHEMICAL TRACKING SUCCESS STORY

### Problem

Without an efficient system to report and dispose of expired chemical containers, the company was struggling to maintain compliance during audits.

### Solution

VWR and ChemSW combined experience and capabilities to enable an ongoing programme for managing expired chemicals and ensuring audit compliance.

### Result

The company has had **zero corrective actions** since the programme was implemented, and the time needed to prepare for an audit has dropped from **three days to 30 minutes**.

“Previously, we had chemicals stored together that shouldn’t have been. It was pretty frightening. When VWR helped do an inventory audit during implementation, we found all sorts of dangerous situations. It’s taken a lot of the stress off to know that this doesn’t exist anymore.”

-The Company’s  
Laboratory Manager

## ENSURING AUDIT COMPLIANCE THROUGH EFFICIENT CHEMICAL INVENTORY PRACTICES

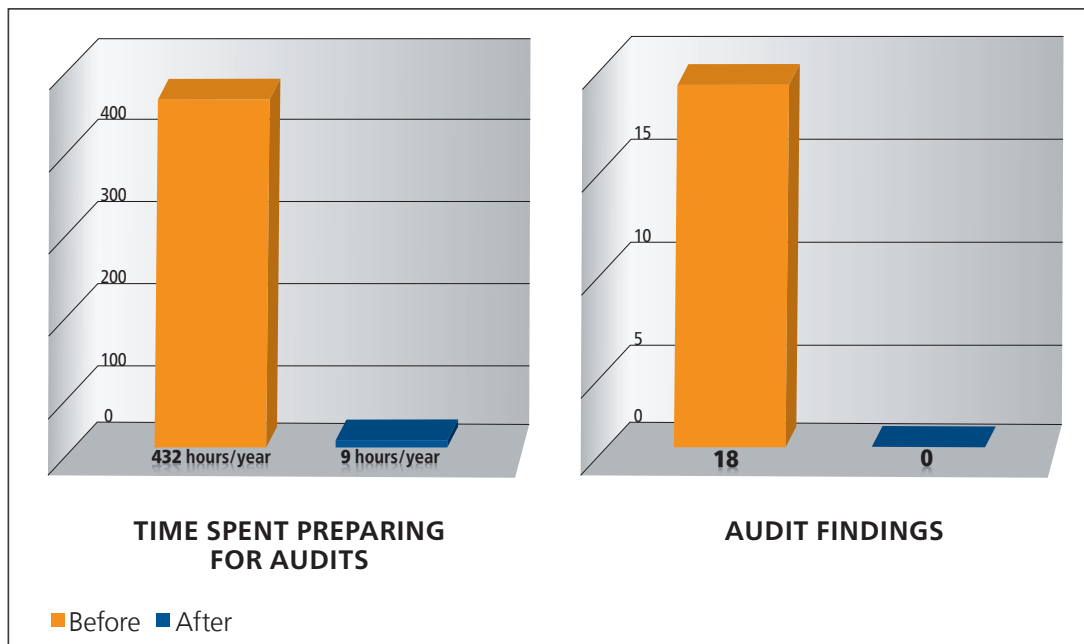
### Problem

A major specialty chemical company was struggling to reduce audit findings in its quality control and R&D labs for cGMP chemical production. The most common concern involved expired containers. The facility needed to reduce manual inventory of old chemicals to prevent being out of compliance and to acquire the correct regulatory and safety data. Employees often purchased chemicals that were already in stock but couldn’t be located, leading to expiration of current inventory. Scientists were also spending too much time searching labs and storage space to identify expired chemicals before audits and locate chemicals needed for daily research.

### Solution

The facility engaged a **VWRCATALYST** Lean Six Sigma Business Process Consultant (BPC) to implement a chemical tracking system, perform initial chemical inventory, and establish an ongoing process that would work with the limited resources at the site. User friendly software from ChemSW® met the company’s needs and enabled them to quickly generate the data needed for audits and internal management use. The company’s chemical containers are now immediately barcoded upon receipt and tracked in a central database. Expiration dates are clearly marked on the containers, and reports are automatically generated to track when chemicals need to be tested.





**Figure 1** - Time Spent Preparing for Audits vs Findings Found During Audits

## Result

From programme implementation until this publication date, there **has not been a single corrective action** resulting from an audit. The time needed to prepare for an audit, whether scheduled or unplanned, has **decreased from as much as three days to 30 minutes**. The facility is also now OSHA compliant, and their MSDS information for their chemicals is easier to find and access.

VWRCATALYST Chemical Tracking Services can help you mitigate risk and comply with all federal, state and local regulations.

### Additionally, the company can:

- Identify and remove unwanted hazardous materials in an organised and consolidated fashion
- Remain current with on-going removal of containers prior to expiration date
- Expend less resources for audits and daily chemical materials acquisition
- Readily find chemical materials, avoiding repurchase or rush shipments

Visit [VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST](http://VWR.COM/VWRCATALYST) or email [VWRCATALYST@eu.vwr.com](mailto:VWRCATALYST@eu.vwr.com) for more information.

## We Enable Science Through Services

From research to production, VWRCATALYST can help you re-focus scientific time on initiatives that directly support the strategic mission of your company.

### We Enable Science by

- Powering productivity
- Improving quality, safety, and regulatory compliance
- Reducing total operating costs

### Our services include:

- Procurement and Supply Management
- Laboratory and Production Support
- Scientific Support
- Equipment and Instrument Services
- Lean Six Sigma Process Consulting