

Success story

Lowering accident rates and saving money through standardization

CHALLENGE

With more than 25 locations across 18 countries in Europe alone, an international brewing and bottling company was grappling with lowering its rate of reported accidents and with unifying the varying local standards of safety from each country. The company came up with an internal standard based on the most prevalent risks faced by its international staff and established a safety matrix pertaining to each department.

However, combined with financial pressures to lower overall cost, the question wasn't how to improve accident prevention, but rather who could help the company cost-efficiently implement its new safety standards across several different locations?

SOLUTION

The company chose us, VWR, part of Avantor, to be its invaluable resource in hurdling this obstacle, recognizing our

extensive supplier network and teams of experts in nearly every aspect of facility operations.

With a supply chain spanning across Europe and beyond, we could supply every one of the customer locations with the



“Although VWR, part of Avantor is a worldwide organization, each of our individual facilities felt like they were dealing with a dedicated, local company—with local offices, local account managers, and local specialists focused on our needs.”

— General Manager, Bottling Facility

same product and the same part number, while providing all-encompassing reports. Doing so established a consistency in the quality and nature of the safety products and reliable visibility through the use of a single supplier.

Additionally, our safety specialists throughout Europe provided every location access to expert support and technical help, locally and in their respective language. These specialists helped the company meet corporate and government requirements, decreased the complexity around Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) use through training and fit testing, actively assisted with implementation and roll-out, and kept all parties up to date with the latest innovations.

For example, some factories were using substandard PPE products, such as heavy and poorly fitting protective shoes, which was driving down employee retention and overall safety. A more suitable choice from our supplier network was identified by the company and accomplished through our local teams, providing factory-floor staff with lighter, safer, and more comfortable footwear. The improved product simultaneously raised employee satisfaction

and lowered the rate of accidents related to slips, trips, and falls.

RESULT

Not only was the company able to achieve its original goal of reducing accident rates at its European locations, but it was also able to establish a unified standard used across all their operations. By being comfortable, protected, and shown that its well-being mattered to the company, employees were noticeably more proactive in practicing safety and awareness, utilizing the insights shared with them by our specialist teams.

Keeping locations stocked with an identical assembly of PPE gear was far simpler as well, thanks to a virtual catalog built through vwr.com that is accessible from all customer locations in ten different languages, providing the exact same product of the exact same quality. The company reports that for locations that implemented the recommended safety compliance and equipment, accident rates have dropped significantly.