



Perfection Spring & Stamping Corp.

1449 E. Algonquin Rd. Mount Prospect, IL 60056 USA

www.pss-corp.com 411@pss-corp.com

Orientation Training Program

What is "IMDS" ?

"International Material Data System"

IMDS - the International Material Data System is a product of EDS, a German IT-company.

The International Material Data System (IMDS) is a collective, computer-based material data system used by automotive OEMs to manage environmentally relevant aspects of the different parts used in vehicles. Through this system, the automotive industry is able to reconstruct the complete material flow.

The adoption of the IMDS relies above all on a legislative background, namely: Laws & Regulations on hazardous substances: OEMs must eliminate these substances from the supply chain. End-Of-Life Vehicles Directive (ELV): It forces car manufacturers to improve their recycling rates. Therefore all suppliers must deliver accurate material information.

The IMDS is the result of a collaborative effort involving 8 OEMs, namely Audi, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Ford, Opel, Porsche, VW and Volvo. Since its establishment further OEMs have also adopted this system, as well as the suppliers to the OEM automotive companies, which in many cases is now a requirement for any components being imported into the European market.

Hazardous Materials Lists

The bases of the system are the black and gray lists of prohibited and declarable substances. These substances, when used in materials and components for the automotive industry, are of concern to human health, environmental safety and recycling. Prohibited substances, like hexavalent chromium, are forbidden due to legal or internal regulations. Declarable substances should not be construed to mean that the substance is prohibited from being used in a vehicle part, or is to be de-selected from use. Until now, most OEMs had their own list of prohibited and declarable substances.

With the introduction of IMDS, BMW, DaimlerChrysler, Porsche, Fiat, Ford, General Motors, Toyota, VW and Volvo combined their lists to the ILRS (international list of reportable substances) which has been replaced by GADSL (global automotive declarable substance list). The remaining OEMs still have their own lists and currently most of the OEMs accepting the GADSL still have complementary requirements. Because of ongoing research and lawmaking, these lists are subject to change.

Because it is a computer-based system, IMDS recognizes hazardous substances by comparing the entered data with the lists of prohibited substances. Hence OEMs can trace hazardous substances back to the source and eliminate them. Not only the banned materials (Cr VI / Hg /...) have to be indicated. Instead, all substances have to be stated in the material data sheet (MDS) of the IMDS with a resolution of 1 gram or better. That is why substances and materials of products must be known in detail. Material information on parts is later delivered from the OEMs to dismantler companies in order to achieve the goals of the ELV Directive.