Founded in 1867, Moosehead is Canada’s oldest and largest independent brewery, and a brand known around the world. Safety is deeply ingrained in Moosehead’s culture because the company faced serious calamities in its early history. The brewery suffered two fires in the 1800’s: in 1878, a fire completely destroyed the facility; and in 1917, the brewery was leveled again in the Halifax Harbor Explosion. One hundred years later, one of the fundamental values of Moosehead’s production facility in Saint John, New Brunswick is the commitment to ensure the health and safety of all its employees. A recent move to the MSDSonline, a VelocityEHS solution, is poised to help keep Moosehead safe and compliant for many more years to come. Jamie Pellegrini — who has been Safety Manager for Moosehead since 2006 — explains the impetus for the transition.

“We had been using paper safety data sheets in binders,” explains Mr. Pellegrini. “It was a real pain to update them. It was all manual. We have about 400 chemicals that need an SDS. A colleague and I would devote a big chunk of time to calling companies and checking for updates. Then we’d have to print them all and go out to the binders throughout the plant. Unless the supplier emailed the updated SDS to us — which some of them did, but not very many — it would just be a nightmare doing this thing.”

Knowing there had to be a better way, Mr. Pellegrini began looking into the MSDSonline HQ Account after getting a phone solicitation.

“I had previously received some cold calls about the MSDSonline solution,” explains Mr. Pellegrini. “When I started really looking at the costs and breaking everything down, it was clear this would save us time and money. My team was taking one and a half months of work per year getting SDSs and updating the books. The cost of the HQ Account ended up being much less than this in man hours, and it’s so much more effective.”

Mr. Pellegrini reports that, upon adoption, Moosehead began seeing multiple benefits right away.

“Our supervisors love that it’s a link you can put on your phone,” says Mr. Pelligrini. “Everybody now is using their phones for everything. Everybody wants everything at their fingertips, and that’s what this provides. We also have links to the HQ Account on our intranet page, which works very well. The other thing I like is the ability to print out workplace labels on the fly. We used to have generic labels that were peel and stick and the person had to write it out. This is much better. It reduces the possibility of human error. As a supervisor, when someone says,
‘We’re going to pump this chemical into this barrel,’ I don’t have to worry about someone misprinting something. The label is going to be exactly what it should be. And with GHS coming online, we’ve got to be ready each time something comes in. And we are. That’s the beauty part about this.”

Mr. Pellegrini also says that having the HQ Account makes it easier to try new chemicals.

“Before, there was a lot of red tape when we wanted to do something as simple as pick up a new cleaner and see if it worked,” says Mr. Pellegrini. “For example, if one of our guys goes to a shop and buys a cleaner, they can’t bring it into our facility unless we have something SDS-wise. It used to take hours to get that SDS — a lot of time just to see if a cleaner worked. But now it takes five minutes. That’s something I really like.”

As Moosehead continues to thrive in a competitive marketplace and keep alive one of Canada’s most iconic brands, it remains confident that its partnership with VelocityEHS will give it the tools to keep its employees safe and its workplaces compliant.

Concludes Mr. Pellegrini: “We’ve felt like we were in good hands every step of the way. From the initial call, to walking through the system, to implementing it in our facility, everything’s been great. I’ve had a couple questions, and they’ve been answered right away. The HQ Account does exactly what we needed it to do.”

TRUSTED BRANDS TRUST OUR AWARD-WINNING COMPLIANCE SOLUTIONS

Internationally-beloved brands with large manufacturing operations are challenged to meet compliance and safety requirements, maintain brand integrity, and uphold the reputations for excellence that consumers have come to trust. It’s important for these businesses to find an EHS solution that meets the needs of individual users, while at the same time satisfying directors and c-suite executives who require access to reporting tools, enterprise-wide oversight, and easy centralized controls. At the same time, these businesses face ever-mounting challenges when it comes to complying with evolving safety and environmental regulations.

That’s a lot to deal with! VelocityEHS can help.

At VelocityEHS, our award-winning suite of seamless solutions give international manufacturers the tools they need to keep their products and workplaces safe and compliant. Our cloud-based solutions make it easy to meet ever-evolving local, state/province, and federal requirements, provide required safety data sheet information to workers, and keep operations running smoothly. Find out what makes us the solutions provider that more businesses of all sizes trust with their compliance and safety needs!