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Welcome to the Formpak Winter Newsletter which contains updates on system capabilities and improvements. We hope you find it interesting and please contact us if you would like further information on any aspect.

ABOUT ERP INTEGRATION

Formpak provides integration with many ERP and Manufacturing Systems:



The services enable efficient handling of formulations and raw materials, product compliance and documentation such as Safety Data Sheets and labels.

We have further developed this capability with additional integration points, and especially in the Project Management area. For example:

- A lead in the ERP system can be sent to Formpak as a project
- New product development activities are undertaken in Formpak
- Finalised new products can be returned from Formpak to the ERP system
- The ERP system can issue customer samples and additional information as required

Additional integration points are possible, including sharing key details about development activities and even all samples under development. The options allow you to reflect your preference for integrating your product development and sales processes.

Formpak integration is achieved via SOAP web services. The tools include ways to integrate raw materials, formulations and compositions, customers, suppliers and cross references, in addition to projects.

DOCUMENT ENHANCEMENTS – REQUEST XML DATA DOCUMENTS

Formpak tools have existed for many years to allow you to generate and manage documents for your products, such as hazard labels, safety data sheets, specifications and various regulatory status documents.

Some years ago we introduced the Print a Document web service. This allows you to request a Safety Data Sheet, for example, from within your ERP system, which would be returned by Formpak in a PDF format.

We have introduced an additional web service for Data Documents. A Data Document returns a document or label in XML format and the data within it can be joined with data from your ERP system. The XML format is especially useful for product labels where some data is technical and regulatory biased (from Formpak) and other information is batch and/or customer order biased (from your ERP system). Data documents provide data quickly and still include the key features of Formpak including translated content, version and permission control.



IMPROVEMENTS TO DATA IMPORT TOOLS

Formpak software includes several tools which are routinely used to import items, document types, properties and more. These are typically used to add new raw materials or new properties, or to update existing document types.

We've observed a growing requirement to add new information to existing raw materials. Often the information cannot be predicted in advance and may also require interrogation and data manipulation.

Requirements to add new information can arise for many reasons. Information may relate to new regulations, new customer requirements or product applications; information can also relate to changing business processes such as authoring Product Specifications with data which currently exists in other parts of your business. Examples of data which can be added includes the presence or absence of your raw materials on an inventory or allowed list; reference numbers; Kosher, Halal or other status; percentage limit for a specific use and much more.

We've further developed existing tools to streamline the process so that it's easier and more efficient to interrogate data, then import organised data for existing raw materials.

Please note data import is a custom requirement and therefore chargeable.

MANUFACTURING INSTRUCTIONS

This is a new feature added earlier this year giving users the ability to provide mixing instructions for a composition. The different manufacturing stages are structured in the CDT and the instructions are specified using properties in the 'Manufacturing Instructions' property group. The instructions can then be printed from the 'Print the Composition of an Item' screen.

IMPROVEMENTS TO PROJECTS

We have made multiple improvements to Projects within Formpak making them more flexible with smoother work flows and better for integrated systems. The key updates include:

- The ability to include additional parties to a Project
- Include a contact name for the primary party of the project
- An additional notes area in the Project for Sample Notes
- Additional Project details included in the Tasks for the Project
- Project information now included in Check Suitability
- When adding a new Project users will only be shown the Projects they are permitted to add
- A Sample Task will now inherit the Contact Name specified in the Project
- Tasks now have an 'Items' tab which can include linked formulation development and samples
- Tasks also have a 'Status' tab

IFRA 49

You may have seen the communication from IFRA, dated 3rd November, which shows the QRA 2 categories and classes which will be used from the 49th Amendment. We have reviewed the new IFRA categories and classes to determine the most appropriate scheme to update Formpak. The two key factors are:



- Add to Formpak the new IFRA categories and classes for the new QRA 2 scheme, so that raw material limits can be entered and in turn calculate formulation limits.
- Determine how to get from the existing scheme of QRA 1 to the new scheme of QRA 2 on a customer system

Adding new categories and classes is fairly straight forward; these are just new properties and the calculations are very similar to existing IFRA properties.

As QRA 1 and QRA 2 are quite different in relation to the applications per category and class, determining how to get from the QRA 1 scheme to the QRA 2 scheme is more complex and involves many steps. Should anyone want more details about these steps please contact us.

It may take customers some time to update their raw materials and particularly to update any existing applications to refer to the QRA 2 scheme. Therefore Formpak intends to add the QRA 2 scheme to the software, in addition to leaving the QRA 1 scheme in place. This means QRA 1 IFRA limits can continue to be used until such time as each business is ready to switch to the QRA 2 method.

We will keep you updated as we make progress with the QRA 2 properties.

2017

Formpak have had an incredibly busy year, with a focus on integrating Formpak with new ERP systems, migrating customers onto new Formpak and away from vintage Formpak, in addition to implementing new customers and many improvements to the software as a whole. We have also implemented a record number of custom documents and labels.

Our team expanded in the spring with the introduction of our Project Manager, Victoria Ayres, and we have an additional team member joining us in the new year to help to with this growing demand.

We have made many improvements to the application this year, some of which we have mentioned in this newsletter. A list of the key updates can be found on our [Support Centre](#). You can also find our previous [newsletters](#).

Thank you for your ongoing business this year and we look forward to working with you next year and beyond.

Merry Christmas from

Tim, Penny, Richard, Victoria and Vicki

