

The Chemical Manufacturer's Warehouse Compliance Compass

20 Questions to Navigate Storage & Distribution Risk



Hazmat Warehouse Compliance Health Check

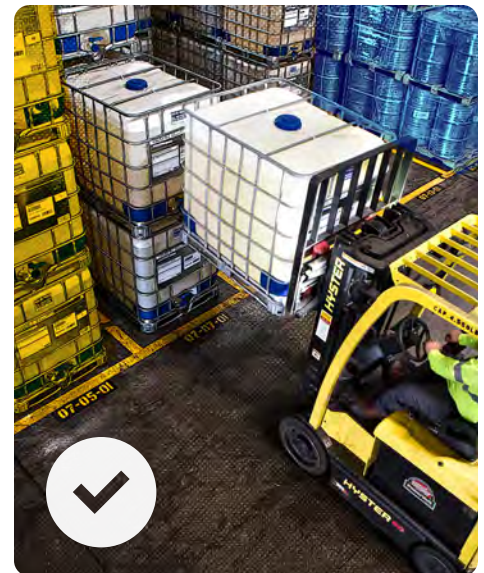


20 Questions to identify gaps, reduce risk, and benchmark your storage and distribution operations.





About This Audit

This assessment provides chemical manufacturers with a strategic evaluation of their warehouse compliance posture. Whether managing storage and distribution in-house or with a 3PL partner, these 20 questions help quickly identify potential vulnerabilities, assess risk exposure, and benchmark operations against industry best practices.

Many mid-market chemical companies operate with compliance programs that haven't kept pace with their growth, regulatory changes, or expanding product lines. What worked for a regional operation may fall short when you're shipping hazmat across multiple states, dealing with new chemical classifications, or facing increased regulatory scrutiny. This compass helps you navigate those complexities and understand where your operation truly stands.



Who This Helps

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |
| Mid-sized chemical manufacturers ready to elevate their compliance program | Companies evaluating their current 3PL's performance and capabilities | Operations teams preparing for regulatory inspections or audits | EHS professionals benchmarking their facility's compliance maturity |

How to Use This Tool

This assessment evaluates your chemical warehouse operations across four critical compliance areas. Each answer is color-coded to show how your operation compares to industry standards:

- **Best-in-Class Practice**
- **Standard Practice**
- **Basic Compliance**
- **Gap/Risk Area**
- **Unsure/Unable to Assess**

After each section, review your answers to see your performance pattern. At the end, your overall results across all four sections will reveal your compliance maturity level with specific recommendations for improvement.

The complete assessment takes 10 minutes and provides both immediate insights and a benchmark against industry-leading practices.



True chemical compliance excellence requires comprehensive expertise, specialized infrastructure, and ongoing vigilance. It's why WSI has dedicated compliance teams, purpose-built facilities, and continuous training programs. This assessment serves as your starting point to understand where you stand and identify areas that deserve deeper investigation with your operations and compliance teams.

Need help reviewing your results or discussing compliance gaps? Our chemical logistics experts are available for confidential consultations.

Contact us at solutions@wsinc.com



Regulatory Compliance & Documentation

Chemical warehousing involves multiple regulatory agencies with overlapping requirements. This section evaluates how well your operation manages the complex web of environmental rules, safety standards, transportation regulations, state and federal requirements.



1. How do you maintain compliance across EPA, OSHA, DOT, DHS, CBP, DEA and other requirements?

- ☐ Dedicated compliance team with regular multi-agency audits
- ☐ Designated compliance officer with periodic reviews
- ☐ Basic compliance tracking
- ☐ Limited multi-agency coordination
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

2. When was your last regulatory audit and what were the results?

- ☐ One or more annual audits with zero violations and/or swift resolution
- ☐ Annual audits with minor findings and swift resolution
- ☐ Audits completed, but inconsistent cadence and resolution
- ☐ Overdue audits or unresolved violations
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

3. How do you track and implement regulatory updates?

- ☐ Automated tracking system with immediate implementation
- ☐ Regular monitoring with systematic updates
- ☐ Periodic review of regulations
- ☐ Reactive approach to regulatory changes
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

4. Do you maintain current Safety Data Sheets (SDS) and ensure proper access?

- ☐ Centralized digital SDS system with automatic updates
- ☐ Organized SDS management with regular reviews
- ☐ Basic SDS tracking
- ☐ Inconsistent or outdated SDS management
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

5. How audit-ready is your documentation system?

- ☐ Always inspection-ready with organized, accessible records
- ☐ Usually prepared with minimal scrambling
- ☐ Requires preparation time for audits
- ☐ Would struggle with short-notice inspections
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess



What Industry Leaders Do Differently

Industry-leading chemical warehousing and distribution operations maintain dedicated compliance teams that proactively monitor regulatory changes across all agencies. They conduct regular internal audits, maintain digital documentation systems that can produce required records when needed, and have automated processes for SDS updates and regulatory tracking.



Warehousing & Storage Infrastructure

Chemical storage requires specialized facilities designed for safety, containment, and regulatory compliance. This section evaluates your physical infrastructure's ability to safely store hazardous materials while meeting environmental and safety requirements.



6. Are your chemical storage facilities specifically designed for hazmat?

- ☐ Purpose-built chemical facilities with redundant safety systems
- ☐ Modified facilities with appropriate safety features
- ☐ Basic facility modifications for chemical storage
- ☐ Standard warehouse with minimal chemical adaptations
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

7. Do you have proper segregation and secondary containment systems?

- ☐ Engineered segregation with full secondary containment
- ☐ Systematic segregation with containment measures
- ☐ Basic segregation protocols
- ☐ Limited segregation or containment
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

8. How do you control environmental conditions (temperature, humidity, ventilation)?

- ☐ Automated climate control with monitoring and alerts
- ☐ Controlled environments with regular monitoring
- ☐ Basic environmental controls
- ☐ Standard warehouse conditions
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

9. What fire suppression systems do you have for different chemical classes?

- ☐ Specialized suppression systems for each chemical category
- ☐ Multiple suppression systems for different hazards
- ☐ Enhanced fire suppression beyond standard
- ☐ Standard sprinkler systems only
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

10. How do you handle inventory accuracy and lot/batch control?

- ☐ Real-time WMS with FIFO/FEFO and full traceability
- ☐ Digital tracking with good lot control
- ☐ Basic inventory management
- ☐ Manual or inconsistent tracking
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess



What Industry Leaders Do Differently

Leading chemical warehousing operations invest in purpose-built facilities with engineered safety systems, automated environmental controls, and specialized fire suppression for different chemical classes. They maintain real-time inventory visibility with complete lot traceability and have redundant containment systems that exceed regulatory minimums.



Transportation & Logistics

Moving chemicals safely requires specialized carriers, proper documentation, and compliance with DOT hazmat regulations. This section evaluates your transportation capabilities and risk management for chemical shipments.



11. Do you work with DOT-certified hazmat carriers and drivers?

- ☐ Vetted network of certified hazmat carriers only
- ☐ Mostly certified carriers with verification process
- ☐ Some certified carriers
- ☐ Limited hazmat carrier verification
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

12. How do you ensure proper hazmat labeling and placarding?

- ☐ Automated labeling system with double-verification
- ☐ Systematic labeling with quality checks
- ☐ Basic labeling procedures
- ☐ Inconsistent labeling practices
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

13. What transportation modes can you support for chemical shipments?

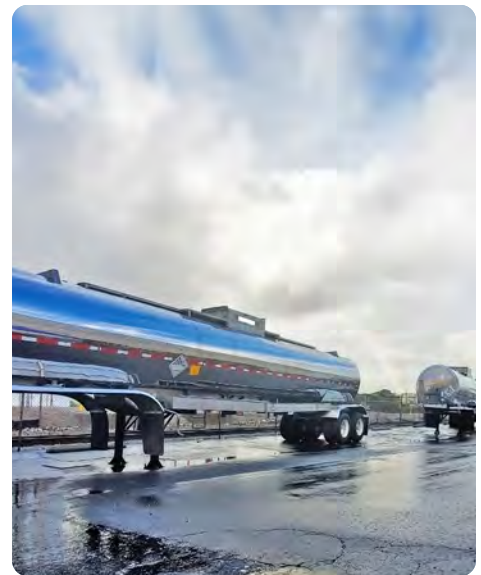
- ☐ Full intermodal capability (truck, rail, ocean, air)
- ☐ Multiple modes with hazmat expertise
- ☐ Limited modal options
- ☐ Single mode or limited hazmat transport
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

14. How do you handle transportation documentation and manifests?

- ☐ Integrated digital documentation with real-time tracking
- ☐ Systematic documentation management
- ☐ Basic documentation procedures
- ☐ Manual or inconsistent documentation
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

15. Do you have contingency plans for transportation disruptions?

- ☐ Multiple backup routes and carriers with rapid deployment
- ☐ Established contingency procedures
- ☐ Basic backup plans
- ☐ Limited contingency planning
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess



What Industry Leaders Do Differently

Top-performing chemical logistics operations maintain vetted networks of certified hazmat carriers and integrated digital documentation. They offer full intermodal capabilities with comprehensive contingency planning and real-time shipment tracking across all transportation modes.



Personnel Training & Risk Management

Chemical handling requires specialized training, emergency preparedness, and robust security measures. This section evaluates your workforce capabilities and risk mitigation strategies.



16. What percentage of chemical handling staff receives shipment mode and material-specific training?

- ☐ 100% of chemical handling staff have material-specific training and certifications, and ongoing education
- ☐ Most chemical handling staff are certified, with ongoing training
- ☐ Some staff have chemical handling certifications
- ☐ Limited chemical-specific training or certifications
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

17. How do you manage cybersecurity and cargo security risks?

- ☐ Comprehensive cyber and cargo security program with monitoring
- ☐ Good security measures with regular updates
- ☐ Basic security protocols
- ☐ Limited security measures
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

18. Do you have emergency response and spill mitigation procedures?

- ☐ Comprehensive emergency plans with trained response teams
- ☐ Emergency procedures with staff training
- ☐ Basic emergency planning
- ☐ Limited emergency preparedness
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

19. How do you ensure PPE compliance and safety protocols?

- ☐ Mandatory PPE with enforcement, training, and regular audits
- ☐ PPE requirements with monitoring
- ☐ PPE available with basic enforcement
- ☐ Inconsistent PPE protocols
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

20. What technology systems support your chemical operations?

- ☐ Integrated WMS, TMS, and predictive analytics with real-time monitoring
- ☐ Good technology integration with visibility tools
- ☐ Basic technology systems
- ☐ Limited technology integration
- ☐ Unsure/Unable to Assess

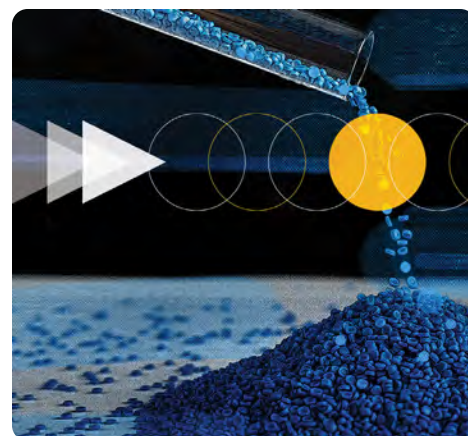


What Industry Leaders Do Differently

Elite chemical operations ensure all chemical handling staff receive material-specific training with comprehensive cyber and cargo security programs. They maintain trained emergency response teams, enforce mandatory PPE protocols, and leverage integrated technology systems for real-time monitoring and predictive analytics across all operations.



Your Results: What They Mean & Next Steps



If You Answered Mostly Green

Excellent - Industry Leading Compliance Program

Your operation demonstrates best-in-class chemical warehousing practices across multiple areas. You're well-positioned to handle regulatory scrutiny and have built a strong foundation for growth.

Focus Areas:

- Benchmark against emerging regulations and industry innovations
- Consider pursuing advanced certifications (Responsible Care®, ISO standards)
- Develop mentorship programs to share expertise with industry peers
- Explore automation and predictive analytics to stay ahead of compliance trends

Re-evaluate: Annually, or when expanding operations or product lines



If You Answered Mostly Yellow

Good - Solid Foundation with Room for Strategic Improvement

Your compliance program meets industry standards but has opportunities to move toward best-in-class performance. You're in a strong position to make targeted improvements.

Focus Areas:

- Identify your lowest-scoring sections for priority attention
- Invest in technology integration and automation where gaps exist
- Enhance staff training programs and documentation systems
- Develop more robust contingency and emergency response procedures

Re-evaluate: Every 6-12 months as improvements are implemented



If You Answered Mix of Yellow/Orange

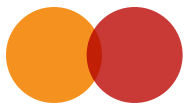
Moderate Risk - Systematic Gaps Requiring Attention

Your operation has a mixed compliance profile with significant areas needing improvement. While not in crisis, proactive action is needed to avoid future problems.

Focus Areas:

- Conduct comprehensive risk assessment of red and orange areas
- Prioritize infrastructure and training investments
- Consider compliance management software or expert consultation
- Develop systematic approach to regulatory tracking and implementation

Re-evaluate: Every 3-6 months to track improvement progress



If You Answered Mostly Orange/Red

High Risk - Major Compliance Vulnerabilities

Your operation has significant compliance gaps that create substantial risk exposure. Immediate action is required to address these vulnerabilities.

Focus Areas:

- **Emergency priority:** Address all red areas immediately
- Consider halting operations in high-risk areas until compliant
- Engage compliance experts or legal counsel for guidance
- Evaluate whether outsourcing to a compliant 3PL makes strategic sense
- Develop comprehensive remediation plan with timeline and accountability

Re-evaluate: Monthly until major gaps are resolved, then quarterly



Ready to discuss your results with chemical logistics experts?

WSI's compliance specialists can help you interpret your assessment, prioritize improvement areas, and develop implementation strategies.

Contact us at solutions@wsinc.com or visit www.wsinc.com to schedule a confidential consultation.



If You Had Many Gray Circles

Not knowing your compliance status in key areas is itself a significant risk factor. Shippers maintain responsibility for their product and reputation, even when working with a 3PL partner. Industry-leading operations maintain clear visibility into all aspects of their compliance program, regardless of who performs the actual warehousing.

Focus Areas

- **If using a 3PL:** Request detailed compliance documentation, certifications, and audit results from your current provider. You have the right to verify their capabilities and performance
- **If managing in-house:** Conduct immediate comprehensive facility and operational audit to establish baseline knowledge
- **For both scenarios:** Implement regular compliance reporting and review processes to maintain ongoing visibility
- **Consider whether your team has adequate expertise** to properly evaluate and oversee chemical warehousing compliance requirements

Trigger Events for Re-Assessment

- Regulatory inspections or violations
- Changes in product lines or chemical classifications
- Geographic expansion or new facilities
- Switching 3PL providers or bringing operations in-house
- Major technology system implementations
- Significant staff turnover in compliance roles





About WSI

WSI is a trusted partner for chemical manufacturers and hazmat shippers requiring specialized warehousing and logistics solutions. As the first 3PL certified as a Responsible Care® partner, we take pride in our high standards for operational excellence, providing hazmat warehousing, specialized material handling, and compliant transportation. **Our Condition, Count & Time®** promise ensures quality, accuracy, and timeliness in every aspect of your chemical logistics operations.

Learn more at <https://www.wsinc.com/chemical-warehousing/>



About Kase

Kase™, a part of the WSI® family of brands, is a premier provider of direct-to-consumer, retail, and omnichannel order fulfillment services. Leveraging WSI's Responsible Care® certification and expertise, Kase also provides compliant hazmat fulfillment. Kase extends **Beyond Fulfillment™** to deliver exceptional customer experiences, helping brands keep their promises with every order.

