

Success Story:

Sword Energy

With operations spanning four provinces—Alberta, British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Manitoba—privately-owned Sword Energy engages over 1200 contractors to perform a wide variety of oilfield services. These range from one- or two-man businesses that provide a specialized service in a local area, up to large drilling companies that routinely send rigs across provincial borders. Sword Energy also employs consultants, many of whom aren't familiar with all the contractors on the producer's approved vendor list and may have their own list of contractors they've worked with in the past.

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Safety Advisor at Sword Energy

These are just two of the complicating factors that all oil and gas companies, Sword Energy included, contend with when implementing a system to manage the HSE information for their safety program. In the past, most companies relied on fax machines and filing cabinets to manage the health, safety and environment information of all these contractors, or they would divert their IT resources from the core business of discovering and producing petroleum to developing automated HSE systems in-house.

"ComplyWorks gives us a mechanism to save money when setting up a contractor management system," says Laurent St. Louis, Safety Advisor at Sword Energy. "They also incorporate our ideas and ideas from other producers and contractors, so all of their members get more services and value than they would with something built in-house."

Built for the industry, with industry input

One of the aspects of ComplyWorks that appealed to Sword Energy, one of the original members of ComplyWorks' Canadian HSE Registry, is that it was designed to flexibly meet the needs of its members' industries. Instead of forcing a one-size-fits-all solution on producers and contractors, ComplyWorks provides Sword Energy with pre-set questions based on input from organizations such as Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP) and the Petroleum Services Association of Canada (PSAC), as well as the requirements of relevant provincial legislation.

"It's easy to understand and work with, and very much oriented to how we do business in Alberta and other provinces," explains St. Louis. The built-in flexibility of ComplyWorks also lets Sword Energy collect, manage and monitor the HSE information they need from all their vendors—one- or two-man shops up to international companies providing comprehensive oilfield services—without putting undue strain on them by only requiring information that's relevant to the risk associated with the work they perform.

"At the end of the day, you have to make the system work for everyone. We take contractor data, analyze it and determine whether it meets our intent. They may have written their story slightly different, but whether they meet our requirements is what's important, not how they word it," explains St. Louis. "ComplyWorks has made the system work for us, instead of making us work for the system."





Streamlined Communications With Contractors

From day one, ComplyWorks has consulted with both producers and contractors to ensure its solution meets their needs. Through user groups and surveys, ComplyWorks identifies new features that benefit both groups and create win-win relationships. It then works with companies, including Sword Energy, to develop those features and make them available across its membership.

"If our ideas work well, or if someone else's ideas work well, then let's all use them," says St. Louis. "By taking those ideas and building them into the system, ComplyWorks provides us all with a tremendous value add."

Take ComplyWorks' communications capabilities, for example. It developed the feature after one producer requested a way to quickly and easily send safety program updates to all of the contractors on its approved list.

Today Sword Energy uses that feature, called InformWorks, to keep the 1200 contractors it works with informed and up to date. "Within minutes, I can send new guidelines or changes to how we do business to all of our contractors and let them know how it affects them in the field," says St. Louis. "It's a great tool."

Lower Costs, Lower Incident And Injury Rates

The bottom line for Sword Energy is that ComplyWorks saves money and improves safety. Over the years, ComplyWorks has proven that it does both. Originally, Sword Energy even paid the membership fees for some of its smaller contractors. "Early on to get contractors on board, we paid for some of their memberships because we saw the value of having them in the system. At the end of the day, it saved us time," St. Louis explains. As those smaller companies began using their ComplyWorks membership to do work for other producers, they too saw the value and began paying for their memberships.

Even more important than the lower costs has been the lower incident and injury rates. ComplyWorks has played a role in Sword Energy experiencing a steady decrease in recorded incidents by contractors at its sites. Those contractors have also experienced lower overall recordable incident rates, as St. Louis can tell from the Alberta WCB data on each contractor that he can access through ComplyWorks.

"We see that as the internal systems and safety programs at each contractor get better, their number of recordable incidents gets lower. That saves us all money," St. Louis states. More importantly, it also saves lives. "Safety is a shared value. Everyone wants to go home at night."

