



1 Metric to Find If RoHS/REACH Declaration Collection Is Slow – Part 3

Unfortunately I find that many companies are not watching their material compliance efforts. The attitude is that as long as there is apparent compliance, there is no reason to change anything. Because of this perception, these efforts frequently perform poorly. It is very well known that what is watched gets better, and the other things not. A good, but simple metric is division of the total man-hours by the quantity loaded, which is the average hours to collect a declaration. See earlier Posts [1 Metric to Find If RoHS/REACH Declaration Collection Is Slow](#) and [1 Metric to Find If RoHS/REACH Declaration Collection is Slow – Part 2](#).

In the earlier posts discussed the average declaration collection rate, and its use to determine workloads, lead times, and backlogs. There is still more that can be done with the average hours to collect a declaration metric.

You may have found in part 2 that a backlog has developed is not acceptable, and you need to do something to prevent in a very late completion date from becoming a reality. As an example let's assume that you have some options that may be considered to achieve the required project deadlines:

1. 3rd party declaration collection services,
2. Buy declarations held by a service provider,
3. Add internal resources.



Of course, your company will be interested in the cost of these options. For options 1 and 2 the service providers will deliver quotes. Option 3 can be calculated, but you will need the average internal expense of the declaration collection team members to make this calculation. Multiply the (man-hours/declaration) X (quantity of declarations) X (average hourly expense for team member).

By comparing the costs of the 3 options, you may find that #3 is actually the least attractive. This does not mean that you will instantly outsource the whole project, and shutdown the internal team. You might have noticed that the suppliers have not quoted delivery of 100% of the part declarations that you need, or may quote 100% but you should not expect this to become a reality. There are 10 to 30% errors in the part and supplier data from you ERP that will prevent the service providers from completing 100% of their required declaration collection. Your internal team will be very important, since you need these team members to internally work with engineering, materials, and sourcing to resolve all of the errors. This error resolution effort makes internal resources very important to your project, since service providers cannot resolve these for you.

Fortunately, once the business is gets interested in their RoHS and REACH part declaration collection, it is often very easy to make significant improvements. Six Sigma and Lean have been successfully applied in small, medium, and large companies to make declaration collection more effective and responsive.



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