Consist ITU Helps You Comply With All Legal Environmental Requirements Using a BPM Software Solution

Dynamic Environmental Compliance

By Ute Müller

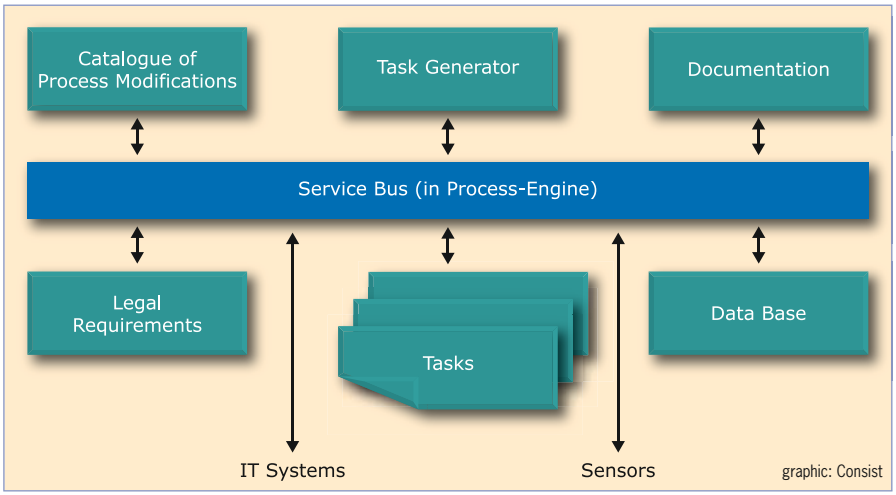
Do you know this situation? You have come up with a long list of environmental requirements, guidelines, and of course laws and ordinances that affect your company. Then you derived measures and determined who does what and when. But even as you are working on the last lines of your list, you have the impression that something is wrong, because an ordinance has changed, a machine was replaced, or changes took place in your organization or staff. So do you just start from scratch? Because naturally you want to run your company right.

Compliance, simply said, means: Observing rules. Environmental compliance is the permanent, demonstrable observance of environmentally oriented laws, ordinances, conditions, etc. that a company has to follow and fulfill.

Of course, a company does its best to meet its environmental requirements. But environmental compliance is not an end in itself! Everything you do must serve the (business) success of your company. There is no (business) damage if an environmental requirement is not met. The damage only occurs when it results in consequential damages. These consequential damages need not be material (contamination, production downtime). "Bad press" can also hinder sales, worry creditors, or even scare away qualified employees.

What's the goal?

The primary goal is therefore not simply compliance with environmental requirements, but



Components of the BPM-based environmental compliance solution (BPM – Business Process Management).

photo: Consist

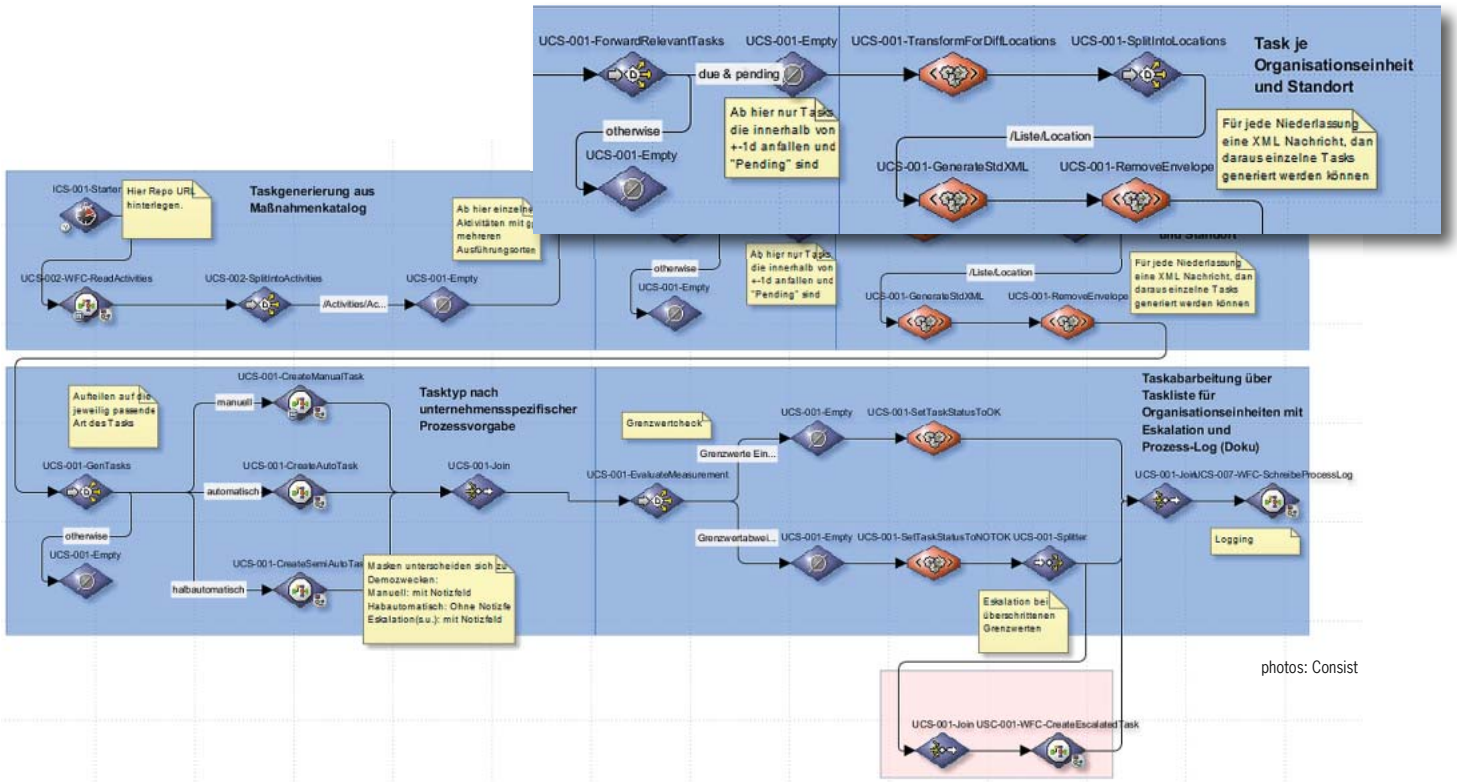
the avoidance of disadvantage and damage caused by non-compliance. At the same time, this goal must be achieved at the lowest cost possible, because it is not the object of the company.

What may be the reasons that environmental requirements are not met? There may be companies who intentionally and significantly violate the law to save money. But they are the exception. Another reason is often ignorance, but it is well known that that doesn't protect you from legal problems. What remains are the "classics", like forgetting, not assigning someone, not checking on a timely basis, not executing with care, and so on. If a regulation changes or is extended, this information may not have reached the person responsible for execution. If the organizational structure changes, it is easy not to notice that it left a monitoring task "hanging".

There is yet another aspect to consider: The company meets all requirements, but must go to significant trouble to prove it.

What should be done?

The first important component of a software solution for environmental compliance is to model processes. Starting from a summary of the regulations (legal sources, legal requirements gazette) and the measures derived, each measure must be implemented with tasks and responsibilities. Tasks can be oriented towards people or may permit automatic processes. They are based on the integration of automatic measurement values, use configured user interfaces to enter data and test results, or provide for example checklists and task lists. They can be simple or include sequences of multiple process steps. And they can be approached from both sides: not just the path from the regulation to the measures and the tasks to the end of the process is visible and traceable, but in the reverse direction, a person executing tasks can find out by which legal provision it was triggered.



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Technical process execution: Modeling of processes starting from regulations, derived measures, the resulting tasks and responsibilities.

Environment-related legal conditions affect all areas of the enterprise. Emissions in all environmental media must be observed. Material restrictions, labeling requirements, production-related requirements, and even e.g. certain qualification measures for employees must be checked and proved. In all these areas, there is generally already software that can provide at least parts of the information you need. The compilation of that information is therefore the second component of a software solution for environmental compliance, because nobody wants to enter data more than once.

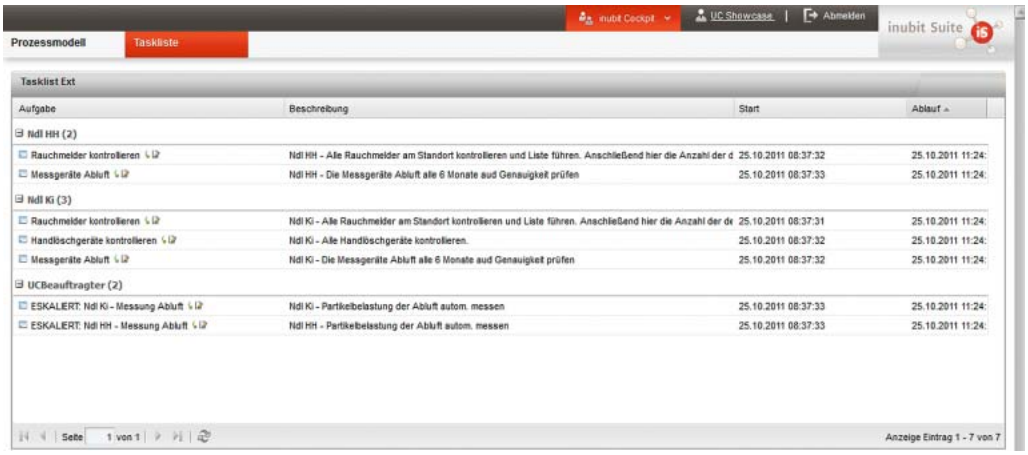
BPM for two components

We implement both of these components by the use of BPM software (Business Process Management) from our partner, the Berlin company inubit AG. Based on your legal sources register, the environmental engineers at Consist ITU and the inubit Certified Professionals at Consist work with you to design and implement your dynamic environmental compliance system.

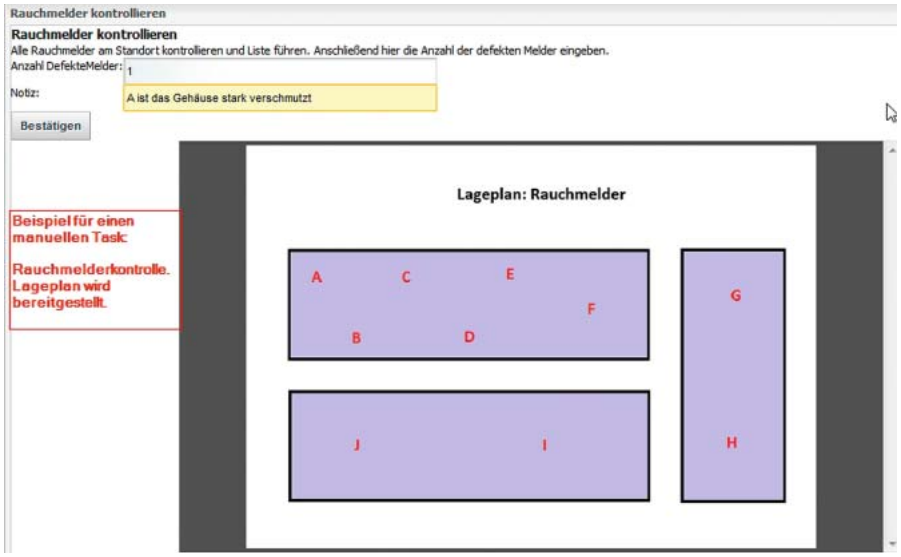
Remember: The goal is the efficient avoidance of damages resulting from failure to comply with regulations. The special feature of the way we present of achieving that goal is the modeling and continuing adaptation of the associated processes in a BPM software package. The BPM software isn't just for the compilation of data and description of processes, but primarily for its transparent and partly

The inubit Suite

With the inubit BPM suite provides a comprehensive and completely integrated process platform for BPM. It puts processes into the focus of the company, involving both business and technical organizational units of the company, and permits complete end-to-end process management. To do this, it has more than 70 interfaces to a variety of applications and databases.



Example from the enterprise portal of the suite: Task lists separated by regional (subsidiaries in Kiel and Hamburg) and organizational responsibilities (escalation to environmental compliance officer due to excessive measured values).



Modeling from a showcase: Example of detailed information for a smoke alarm task. The design of the user interface is later adapted according to appropriate customer needs.

automated processing. At every level, rules can be implemented that "sound an alarm" when measured values are exceeded, when checks have not been carried out, but also when changes to measures have led to tasks that are not being carried out.

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