

# BASF: STREAMLINING A GLOBAL VETTING PROCESS

Assurance database systems provide facts; as the world's largest chemical company, BASF wanted to streamline the process of interpreting and acting on those facts. Pharox developed a vetting database solution which helps BASF to manage global risks in an efficient workflow.

BASF employs a large number of logistic service providers (LSPs) around the world, who are thoroughly screened using extensive risk and quality assessments ('vetting'). This process is needed to ensure that all parties comply with BASF's high quality requirements.

Capt. Luc Cassan of the BASF vetting department emphasizes that the vetting process is a crucial part of the company's business operations. "The potential damage of an accident to the environment, as well as to our reputation and finances, is huge. We need to do everything we can to minimize risks."

## Interfaces for automated vetting

Pharox built a vetting database solution for BASF, as well as a range of interfaces to automatically collect inspection data from various assurance databases. Capt. Cassan: "Together with Pharox, we have also developed templates that can automatically screen LSPs for compliance with our safety requirements, policies and priorities."

The largely automated vetting process enables BASF to make quick and responsible decisions. Capt. Cassan: "The system also creates transparency. In the unlikely event of an accident, the vetting database helps us prove beyond any doubt that we have done everything in our power to minimize and eliminate risks."

## Expanded scope

While Capt. Cassan bears responsibility for all maritime modes of transport, BASF's logistical operations include land-based modalities as well as storage facilities and cleaning stations. Over the years, Pharox has built new modules covering each link in the logistical chain.

The vetting database is regularly updated to address new concerns. Capt. Cassan: "We monitor industry-wide logistics and analyze any large accidents to see if we need to update our vetting criteria. Which in turn may mean we have to propose new inspection parameters to the industry bodies regulating assurance database systems. For example, most recent accidents can be traced back to human failings. Which is why we have argued for an increased emphasis on crew qualifications and their knowledge of relevant procedures and guidelines."

## A managed solution

Such changes need to be processed in a database quickly, efficiently and without jeopardizing the system's availability. Capt. Cassan: "In each case, we found Pharox to be a reliable and efficient partner, who fully manages the system and offers excellent support. Assurance and database systems are their specialty, and it shows. It gives them a real advantage over other IT providers: they understand our concerns and are able to develop solutions quickly. Which all combines to ensure a low total cost of ownership."