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About This Guide

Hi,

Welcome to *The Complete Guide to IMDS*. We're delighted that you'll be using IMDS and happy that you've chosen this Guide to help you.

Now, if you're like us, you've read more than your fair share of Guides, Instruction Manuals and How-To books. It's likely that none of them gripped your attention like a Stephen King novel.

Well, *The Complete Guide to IMDS* won't either. But while we've stayed very focused on helping you to navigate IMDS, we've done it in a conversational tone. We've added in a few photos and even a joke or two. Hopefully, it makes your learning about IMDS a more enjoyable and, ultimately, a more productive experience.

So, to dive in, here are a few opening salvos about this Guide.

Purpose

The purpose of this Guide is to help you collect, evaluate, and enter data into IMDS. We cannot tell you everything about every material or part; but we can help you understand what IMDS requires and what you need to do to meet those requirements for your materials and components.

If you just need to make a simple part or a basic material, you can go straight to the chapter on Components or the chapter on Materials.

So you can use this Guide as a basic "How do I..." manual or you can read more in depth and understand all the ins and outs and subtleties of the IMDS data collection process. Use the Guide however it works best for you.

More broadly, it is to help your company, as well as your customers and suppliers, to obtain the many business and financial benefits from having [Full Material Disclosure \(FMD\)](#) in regard to its products.

"What benefits?" you may rightfully be asking.

Well, for starters, wouldn't it be nice to have the regulatory boot off your company's neck? Governments are only doing their job when it comes to protecting their citizens, and, in today's business landscape, environmental regulations are one of their biggest hammers. So we might as well get used to it: End-of-Life Vehicle and other environmental directives and regulations are here to stay. More are coming. More markets are implementing them.

Plus, once you have FMD, you can check and update your data as new substances are banned or restricted in the EU or elsewhere

Making the collection of FMDs your standard practice also cuts down drastically on the need to put out the "I want my data NOW!" fires lit by your customers' requests for data. With an FMD