

Ansell adopts Esko WebCenter

Worldwide leading brand owner in health and safety protection solutions, Ansell, uses Esko WebCenter to streamline global packaging operations and cut production time in half.

The customer says

” *We have reduced packaging production time by 50%.*

Will Credicott, Senior Specialist Digital, Corporate Communications & Marketing



The challenge

Formerly within Ansell, managing the production of complex packaging projects was not keeping pace with the numerous language, size and regional variations. It required users from across the globe to manually manage communications, track versions, and approvals.

This process was time consuming and cumbersome, taking anywhere from 60 to 90 days to create a package.

The solution

WebCenter, a unique and powerful web-based platform that manages packaging pre-production specification, approval and project life cycle.

The benefits

- » streamlined collaboration
- » updated project information and approvals
- » better tracking and reporting
- » print providers download final artworks and upload digital proofs themselves
- » 50% decrease in the production time of a package, less than a year after adopting WebCenter

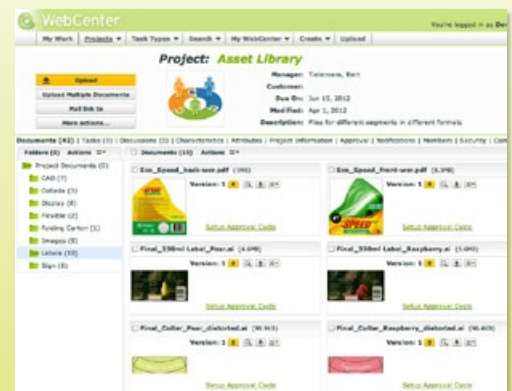


Read more about WebCenter on:
www.esko.com/webcenter

About Ansell

Ansell is a world leader in providing superior health and safety protection solutions that enhance human well-being. A global company, Ansell employs more than 13,000 people in operations in North America, Latin America/Caribbean, EMEA and Asia. Ansell's global position as the leading supplier of personal protective equipment and medical gloves, combined with their line of products for sexual wellness, means the company produces approximately 10,000 SKUs.

[Ansell](http://www.ansell.com) www.ansell.com



Packaging requirements for a portfolio of global products

Project Managers for Ansell's four Global Business Units, including Medical Solutions, Industrial Solutions, Single Use and Sexual Wellness – are located in offices around the globe. Each of the Business Units produces products that provide a specific level of protection from a specific hazard.

Like many companies, Ansell relied on a homegrown solution to manage their packaging production process. The solution utilized project management software, email and the valiant efforts of Ansell's Project Managers. The production process would begin with the Project Manager either updating existing packaging artwork or initiating a new design, upload the project to the system and send an email to the design team in Malaysia. The designer would make the requested changes and upload it back into the internal system. But, because not everyone who needed to approve the design had access to the software it was created in, the designer also had to generate a PDF that the Project Manager would email for approval. As the Project Managers state, this process was cumbersome and time consuming.

Mr. Eric Humbert, Ansell WebCenter Project Manager for the Medical Global Business Unit is based in the United States. He says: "Our previous system required us to use email to track versions and changes across the globe. It was not possible to automate communications between the departments."

Based in France, Mrs. Maïa Barbier Ansell WebCenter Project Manager for the Industrial Global Business Unit, agrees with her colleague. "Our previous process made it difficult to get a holistic view of where the job was and what needed to happen next. There was no way to track changes or monitor revisions. You couldn't tell who was reviewing what version, or how long it would take to move the project to the next step".

Once the project was finally approved, the design team in Malaysia downloaded the approved artwork from their internal system and sent it to production.

Bringing stakeholders together

The combination of Esko's range of products, long-term expertise and profound understanding of the packaging process was what Ansell needed to bring discipline and transparency to their packaging design and production.

Esko's first step was to bring everyone involved in packaging production together in a series of workshops. Esko's Solution Architects, who have expertise in business systems integrations, facilitated these workshops.

Esko's team of experts asked Ansell's employees probing questions about their existing packaging production process. The information that came out of these discussions helped everyone see the production process as a whole, not just their own part of it. In addition, the workshops provided Esko with an in-depth understanding of how to best support Ansell's specific challenges.

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Once the project gets final approval from the Project Manager, it is automatically sent to production

The shift to global collaboration

Ansell adopted Esko WebCenter and branded it as the Ansell WebCenter. The solution gave Ansell employees worldwide a resource that streamlines collaboration, updates approvals, and provides better tracking and reporting.

Now, when the Project Manager wants to update the artwork of one of Ansell's packages, he or she simply selects the original artwork from the Ansell WebCenter Repository and identifies the changes that are required directly on the artwork. This annotated document serves as briefing document for the designer. The Project Manager will then assign the approvers for the specific project, such as IP, regulatory, marketing, customs and legal.

The design team in Malaysia or an external designer are automatically notified of the project and make the requested changes. Once completed, Ansell WebCenter then automatically notifies the Project Manager and the approvers that the design is ready to review.

Mrs. Bee Lee Liew, who leads the design and production team in Malaysia, comments: "With Ansell WebCenter, everyone approving the artwork can view and annotate the high-resolution artwork files, even if they don't have the software installed on their PC. This saves a great deal of time for our designers because they no longer need to generate a separate PDF. This is one of the biggest improvements Ansell WebCenter has made on our production process."

Automatic tracking and reporting of approval

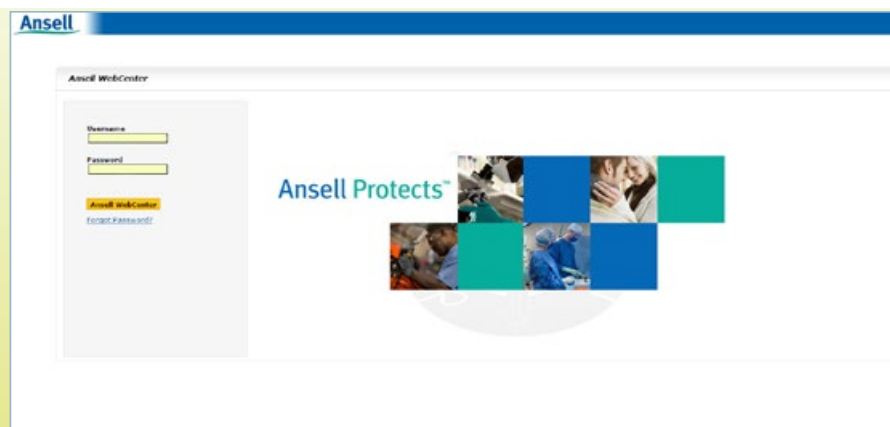
Ansell WebCenter automatically moves the project through the approval process specified by the Project Manager. The reviewers can either approve or reject the design. If rejected, the design gets sent back to the designer for further changes. After the design is updated, the project is automatically sent back into the Ansell WebCenter workflow to continue its approval process.

Ansell WebCenter keeps everyone in the production process up-to-date on the project and accountable

for his or her part of the project. When there are delays – say one approver is taking too long to approve a design – Ansell WebCenter sends that approver a reminder on a daily basis.

As Maïa Barbier notes: "Ansell WebCenter gives me all the information I need. I no longer have to spend my time emailing and tracking down approvals from all the stakeholders of the project. Everyone involved can see the status of the project, and the possible delays – even if they are the bottleneck."

"With Ansell WebCenter, everyone approving the artwork can view and annotate the high-resolution artwork files, even if they don't have the software.



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Once all approvals have been secured, the project gets final approval from the Project Manager and is automatically sent to production. Ansell's design and production team takes the approved artwork from Ansell WebCenter and sends it to the printer and/or outsource manufacturer. These vendors send a digital proof that is also uploaded to Ansell WebCenter for approval by the Project Manager. Any changes to the proof can be made through Ansell WebCenter. Ansell is currently extending the access to Ansell WebCenter to these printers and outsource manufacturers who will download artworks and upload proofs themselves.

"Our previous process took anywhere from 60-90 days. Now, it's half the time..."

This improvement is also felt by the Ansell WebCenter Project Managers. Mr. Humbert says: "Our level of collaboration has considerably improved, and the results can be seen in the time it takes to produce a package. Our previous process took anywhere from 60 to 90 days. Now, our goal is to have a package produced in half that time. In some cases, we are able to implement a change to a package in as little as 21 days."

In addition to packages getting produced faster, the process is running much smoother. "Replacing our manual process with Ansell WebCenter had a huge impact on the way our packages are designed and produced. Because Ansell WebCenter gives everyone a holistic view of the entire process, everyone is more accountable for their part in making the project a success," concludes Ms. Barbier.

An impressive improvement

Everyone involved in the production process at Ansell is pleased with the results that Ansell WebCenter has brought to their organization.

Will Credicott, Senior Specialist Digital, Corporate Communications & Marketing at Ansell, comments "The world's need for better protection never stops, so Ansell is constantly researching, developing and investing to stay on the cutting edge of product innovation and advancing new technologies. Adopting Ansell WebCenter supports that effort. By improving our processes, delegating decision making, and co-locating R&D and manufacturing staff, we have reduced packaging production time by 50%."

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