

Guide

Accelerating Risk Reduction With Artificial Intelligence

How Manufacturers & Distributors Can Use AI for Maximum Advantage

Assent

Faster Intelligence. Stronger Supply Chains.

Introduction

Most manufacturers and distributors aren't using AI in a meaningful way. According to a Gartner survey, **77% of supply chain leaders — your peers — are in the early stages of AI maturity and do not have a formal supply chain AI strategy in place.**[1] This means they're missing a major opportunity to reduce supply chain risk, improve efficiency and cost savings, and respond to customer data requests faster and more accurately. Now is your chance to drive AI value across your enterprise.

Customers demand supplier and part-level data ahead of reporting deadlines, and they need it to be evidence-ready. When a manual, siloed data program can't keep up, the risk is deeper than only non-compliance, leading to lost trust, stalled deals, and contracts that go elsewhere. AI-native supply chain sustainability management software is the competitive and risk-mitigation advantage your company needs in today's complicated, high-pressure landscape.

The State of Industry AI Adoption

In McKinsey's State of AI report, respondents report relatively low regular AI use in operational functions: **10%** in manufacturing and **12%** in supply chain/inventory management.[2]

78% of manufacturers rate their AI readiness as mid-to-low (3 out of 5) in a recent survey summary from Amper's The State of AI in Manufacturing Report.[3]

43% of European manufacturers said AI is not integrated into their processes at all.[4]

1 Gartner, Inc. (2025, June 11). Gartner Survey Shows Just 23% of Supply Chain Organizations Have a Formal AI Strategy. *Gartner*. https://www.gartner.com/en/newsroom/2025-06-11-gartner-survey-shows-just-23-percent-of-supply-chain-organizations-have-a-formal-ai-strategy

2 McKinsey & Company. (2025). The State of AI in 2025: Agents, Innovation, and Transformation. https://www.mckinsey.com/capabilities/quantumblack/our-insights/the-state-of-ai

3 Amper Technologies. (2025). The State of AI in Manufacturing: Insights, Trends, and Strategies. https://www.amper.co/ai-in-manufacturing-report

4 MakerVerse. (2024). AI in European Manufacturing Report 2024. https://www.makerverse.com/resources/ebooks/download-the-2024-ai-in-european-manufacturing-report/

What's the AI Maturity Curve?

We work with 1,000+ manufacturers, distributors, and their supply chains. We've noticed AI adoption in the industry falls into one of three stages:



Stage 1: Institutional Knowledge

Programs run on institutional knowledge and manual work, with minimal AI and siloed data. That creates delays, inconsistent outputs, low visibility, and higher risk when responding to customer and regulatory requests.



Stage 2: Artificial Intelligence for Efficiency

AI automates some manual tasks, but progress slows when data can't be fully optimized. Even with clean supply chain data, relying only on internal datasets limits improvement. Adding a bolt-on network program with best practices and deep expertise scales AI value.



Stage 3: Network Intelligence for Growth

Companies with the highest AI maturity benefit the most. This AI goes beyond program data. It's powered by the world's largest manufacturing data network, learning from trends across thousands of suppliers to surface risks and actions you couldn't see on your own.

Why Move Now?

47% of supply-chain leaders say AI offers the greatest value-creation potential for optimization and cost reduction.[5]

94% of companies plan to use AI or Gen AI to assist with decision-making, showing the growing trust in AI-driven insights.[6]

44% of manufacturers in a Verdantix Global Corporate Survey intend to incorporate AI for product and supplier sustainability information in the next two years.[7]

5 KPMG LLP. (2024). Putting AI to Work for the Supply Chain. *KPMG*. https://kpmg.com/us/en/articles/2024/ai-for-supply-chain.html

6 Luitel, A. (2025, October 14). Artificial intelligence (AI) usage and investment plans. *ABI Research*. https://www.abiresearch.com/blog/artificial-intelligence-ai-in-supply-chain-survey-results

7 Verdantix. (Accessed February 5, 2026). Verdantix Global Corporate Survey 2025: ESG & Sustainability Budgets, Priorities and Tech Preferences, Chart on AI Adoption Intentions Over the Next Two Years. *Verdantix*. https://www.verdantix.com/venture/report/global-corporate-survey-2025--esg---sustainability-budgets--priorities-and-tech-preferences

Advance Your AI Maturity to Get Ahead

Advancing your AI maturity through an AI-native platform has both immediate and long-term benefits that give your company an edge over the competition:

- **Move faster at scale:** Embed AI into day-to-day workflows to reduce manual work and accelerate decision-making.
- **Surface risk earlier:** Intelligent insights help you identify and prioritize supply chain risks before they cause disruption.
- **Stay defensible:** Produce consistent, repeatable outputs with traceable evidence trails that stand up to review.
- **Strengthen your data foundation:** Keep supplier, part, and product data accurate and standardized through network intelligence that grows in real time.



Benefits of Assent's AI-Native Platform

Advancing AI maturity requires more than generic tools. Our AI is built for highly complex and regulated environments, and supported by the largest network of clean, verified product, part, and supplier data to transform isolated data into actionable insights.

Defensible compliance
Assent's AI workflows deliver reliable, explainable results. Outputs are transparent, traceable, and supported by full evidence trails, so manufacturers can respond confidently to regulators, customers, and internal stakeholders.

Purpose-built for complex, regulated supply chains
Assent embeds AI directly into the workflows manufacturers and distributors find hardest to manually scale, so we can deliver results fast. We serve companies in the medical devices, electronics, industrial equipment, automotive, and aerospace and defense industries, with safeguards in place to protect their sensitive data and maintain customer control.

Improve data quality
Assent uses AI to extract, standardize, and validate supplier data across documents and submissions, and to surface any gaps. Over time, this creates a cleaner, more connected data foundation that continuously grows, powered by the Assent Sustainability Network.

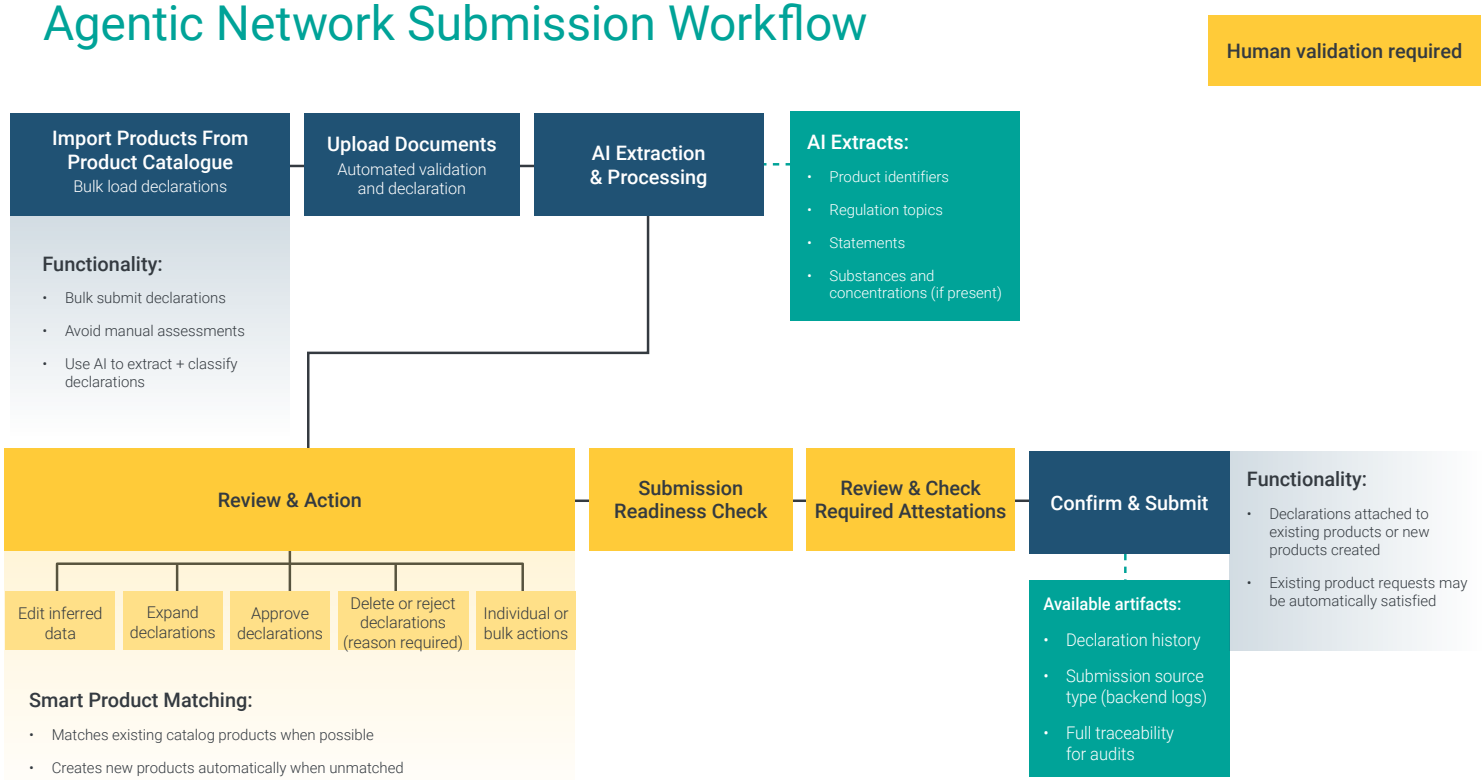
Human oversight integrated by design
AI accelerates review and decision-making, but the power and accountability remains with real people. Assent applies AI in a human-in-the-loop model, ensuring expert verification where accuracy and defensibility matter most.

Continuously updated as regulations change
Assent's AI models are informed by real-world compliance data and human-led regulatory expertise. As requirements evolve, outputs stay aligned with current interpretations and expectations.

Efficient. Automated. AI-Native.

Our AI-native workflows reduce manual effort and risk. Check out these examples from our Request Manager Solution:

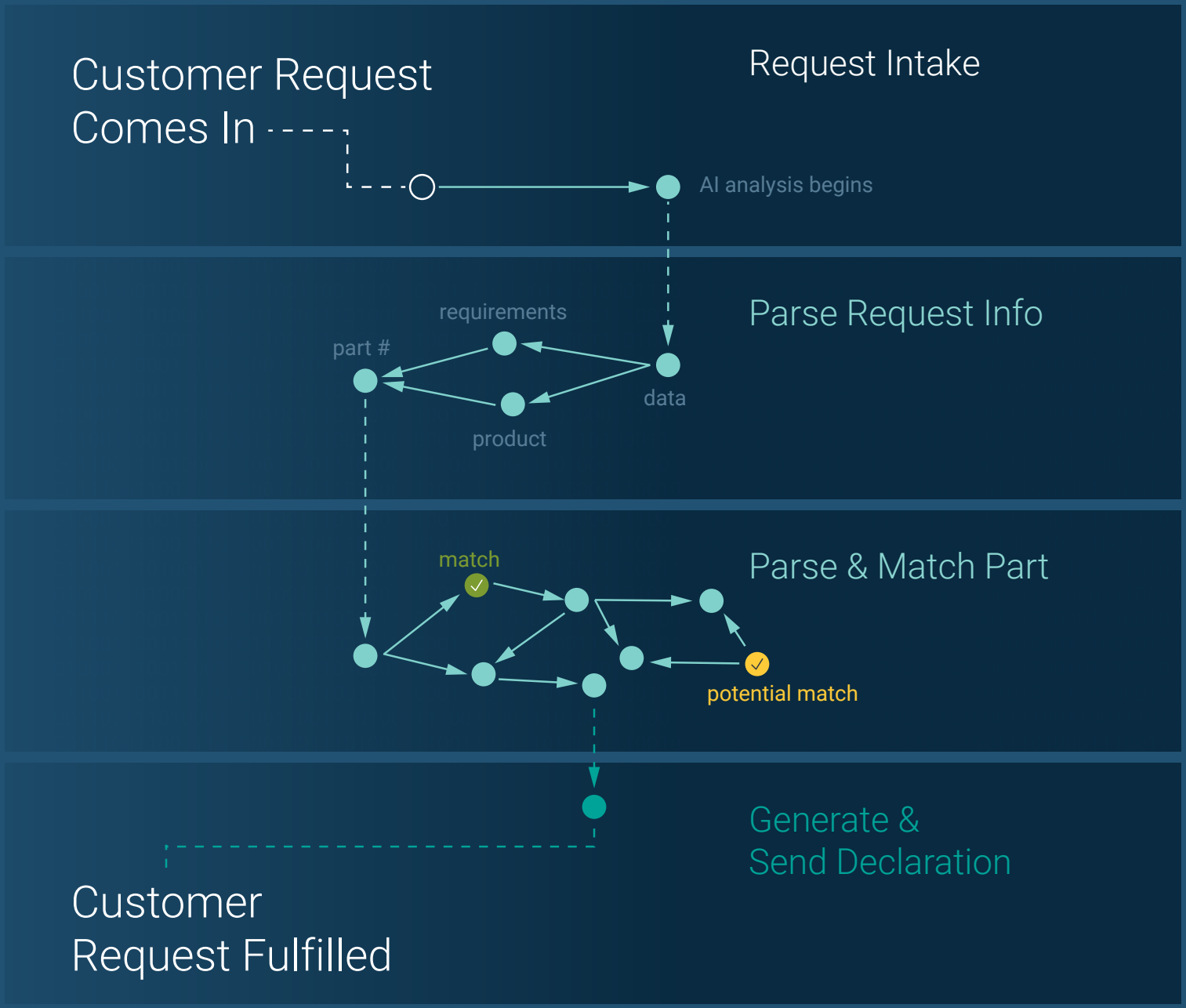
Agentic Network Submission Workflow

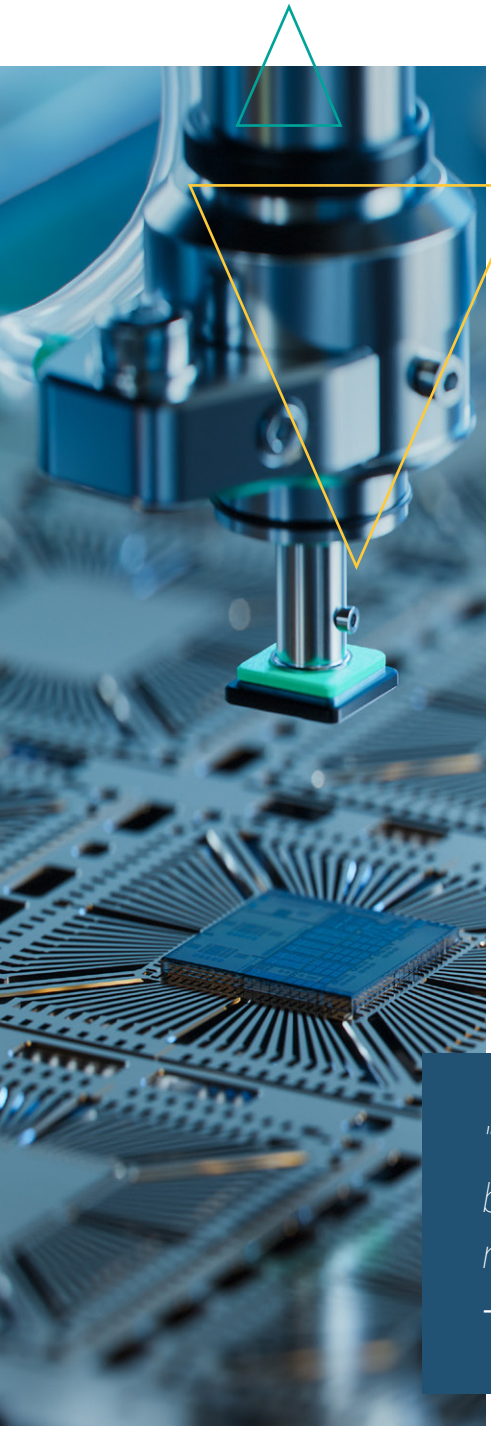


"AI helps me with the data I've put into the platform, and helps me with newer declarations that come up. It pops up and tells me a new SVHC has been added... and I just do it before the customer asks me to."

—Jessica Adams, Quality Technician, Durex Industries

AI Email Parsing





Reduce Risk, Don't Introduce It

Assent's AI is governed by enterprise-grade security, responsible AI practices, and clear human accountability. Customers retain full control over their data, and all AI-supported decisions that affect customer-facing outcomes require human review. The platform aligns with SOC 2, ISO 27001, GDPR, the EU AI Act, and other local laws as required.

Learn more about our data and information security protocols on our **website**.

Risk Reduction & Efficiency, Accelerated

Assent's AI-native platform, powered by the largest manufacturing data network and deep regulatory expertise, turns siloed supplier, part, and product data into connected intelligence. Our solution surfaces risk insights earlier, captures evidence in real time, and produces consistent, audit-ready outputs.

Book your custom demo today to move first and reap the benefits of AI-native supply chain sustainability management.

"Our culture of proactive compliance definitely benefits the bottom line, which is what we need to prioritize. If we're not making money, we're not in business."

—Ryerson



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