

Assent

eBook

Closing the Risk Gap: From Supply Chain Chaos to Strategic Advantage

How Assent Cuts Supply Chain Risk & Boosts Productivity

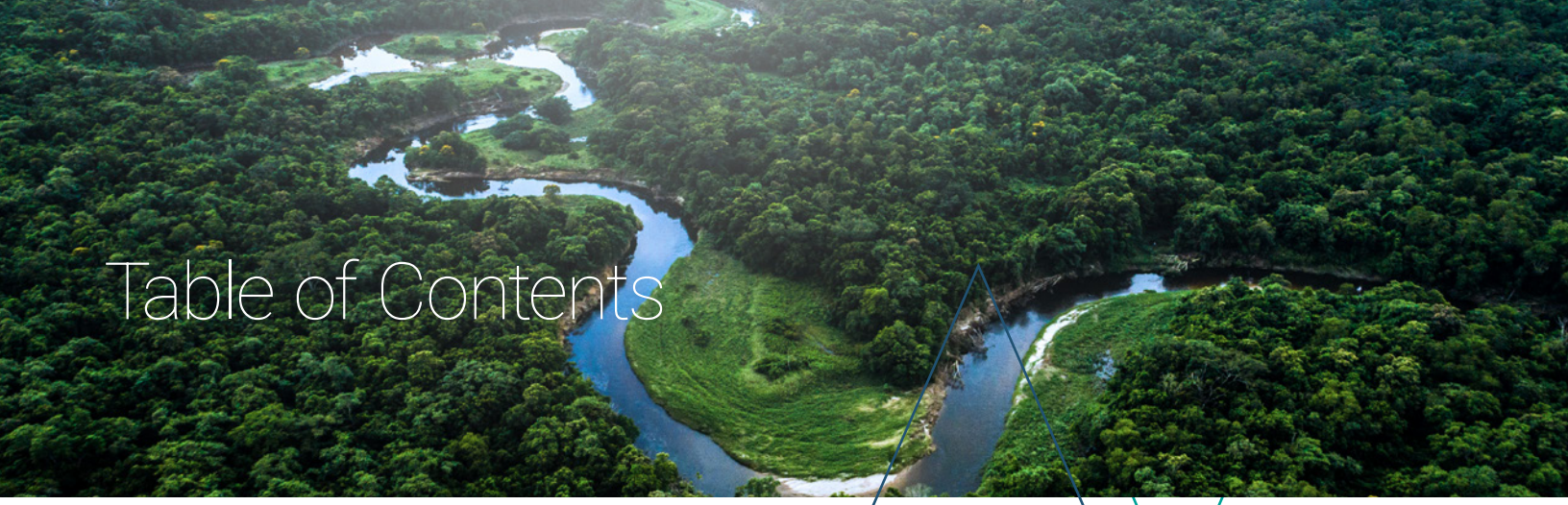


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Close Your Risk Gaps With Assent

Don't let new and changing regulations overwhelm you. Schedule a demo with our experts to see how Assent's supply chain sustainability management solution helps you stay ahead of your compliance requirements and future-proof your business.

Book a Demo

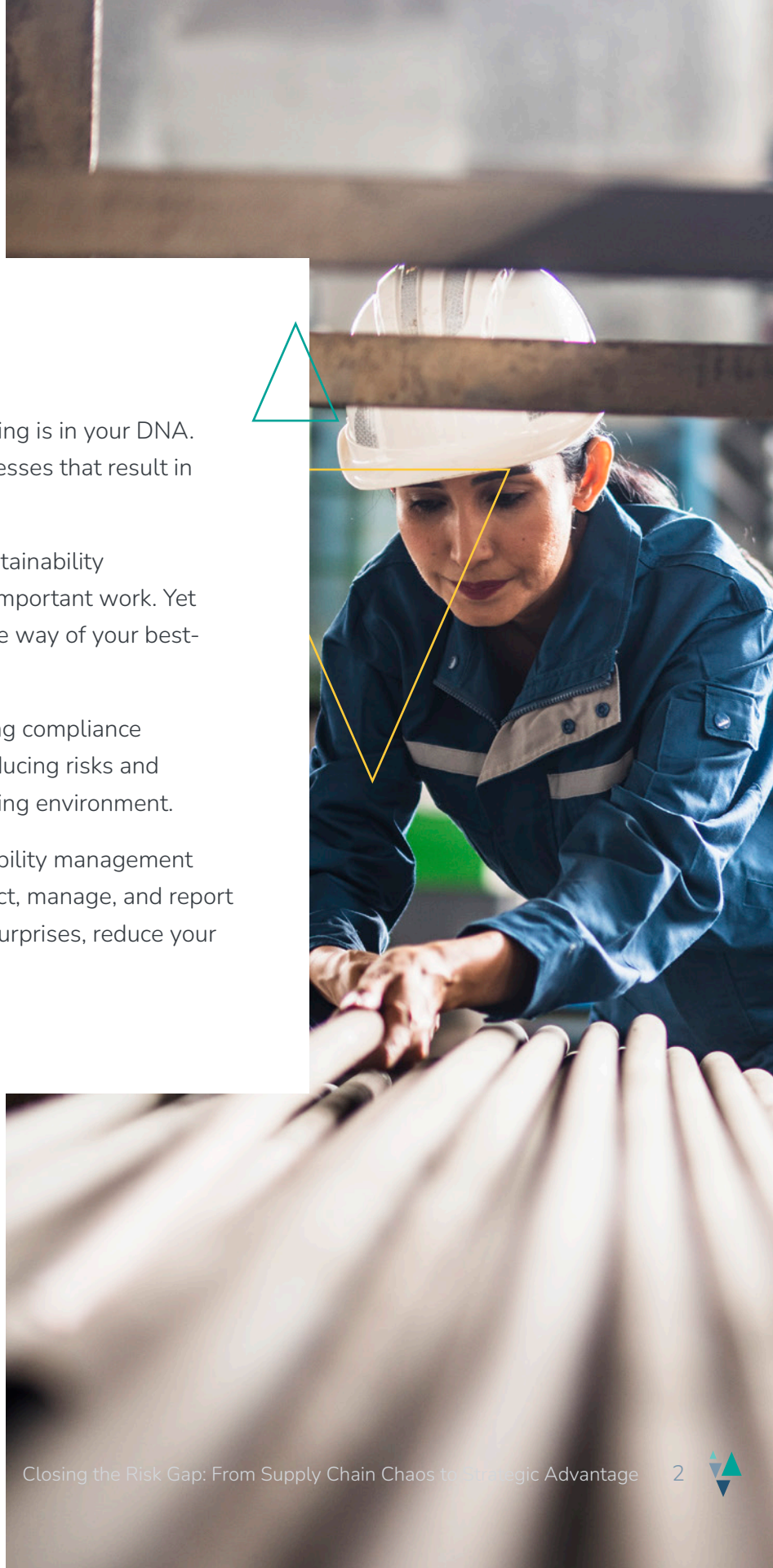
Introduction

As an engineer or quality lead, problem-solving is in your DNA. You want rigorous, scalable, repeatable processes that result in competitive products with minimal risk.

Keeping up with product compliance and sustainability requirements should not be a barrier to this important work. Yet their constantly evolving nature can get in the way of your best-laid plans.

A proactive, automated approach to managing compliance and sustainability regulations is critical to reducing risks and maintaining a stable, predictable manufacturing environment.

Find out how Assent's supply chain sustainability management solution helps your company efficiently collect, manage, and report data from your supply chain to avoid costly surprises, reduce your risk, and increase your productivity.



CHAPTER 01



Your Company May Have a Risk Gap (And It's Not Your Fault)

The gap between the volume of compliance and sustainability requests manufacturers receive from customers and their capacity to manage it all is widening — fast. In the first half of 2025, a record-breaking 2,331 technical barriers to trade were submitted to the World Trade Organization.[1] Compare that to 2024, when there were 4,300 in total. In fact, every year since 2020, the number of new regulations has climbed higher than the year before.

To make matters worse, the complexity of these regulations is increasing. Manufacturers are under immense pressure to keep up with changes, track their product compliance and sustainability data, and ensure their products meet the requirements of various global regulations. Let's look at some examples.

EUDR

The EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR), formally Regulation (EU) 2023/1115, was adopted to help reduce the EU's contribution to deforestation and forest degradation worldwide.[2] It applies to products such as cattle, cocoa, coffee, palm oil, rubber, soy, and wood. Manufacturers must be able to prove their products are deforestation-free; not linked to forest degradation

1 ePing. (n.d.). ePing.Alert. https://epingalert.org/en/FactsAndFigures/Notifications

2 European Parliament & Council of the European Union (2023, June 9). Regulation (EU) 2023/1115. Official Journal of the European Union, L 150, 206–247. Retrieved from: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115



after December 31, 2020; compliant with local production law; and covered by a due diligence statement (DDS) in order to place products on or export from the EU market.

For manufacturers, complexity is rising, as they must collect data (including geolocations) for in-scope products and perform risk assessments to obtain DDSs. These statements must be created before the first placement of the product on the EU market for each relevant commodity and product, referenced from previous submitters when required, and updated annually. The main obligations will apply from December 30, 2025, for large and medium companies, and June 30, 2026, for micro and small enterprises (SMEs) for first-entry products.

PFAS

On October 11, 2023, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published the final PFAS reporting rule under Section 8(a)(7) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) in the Federal Register.[3] The act introduces federal PFAS reporting requirements for businesses that manufacture or import, or have manufactured or imported, PFAS since January 1, 2011. The reporting deadlines have been extended to:

- **October 2026:** For most manufacturers and importers.
- **April 2027:** For small manufacturers that import articles.

Rather than providing a list of reportable substances, the EPA has created a definition of PFAS and requires reporting on all substances that meet this definition. In addition to TSCA, most U.S. states have their own PFAS regulations that impact any business operating in or placing goods on the market in those states.

3 EPA. (2023, October 11). Toxic Substances Control Act Reporting and Recordkeeping Requirements for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances. *Federal Register*. https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/10/11/2023-22094/toxic-substances-control-act-reporting-and-recordkeeping-requirements-for-perfluoroalkyl-and

Other (PFAS) Requirements

European Union (REACH restrictions): A broad proposed restriction on thousands of PFAS substances is under review by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA). The formal restriction and its effective date are still being finalized, but the proposal is to phase out PFAS over several years after the regulation is adopted, with different timelines for various uses.[4]

Avoid PFAS obsolescence risk with our checklist.

Get the Checklist

Canada: The Canadian government has been moving to regulate PFAS as a class of toxic substances.[5]

- **January 29, 2025:** Deadline for a mandatory survey notice for manufacturers, importers, and users of PFAS in Canada during 2023.
- **Fall 2025:** The government anticipates publishing a final version of the 2022 draft regulation, which will tighten restrictions on the manufacture, use, sale, and import of certain PFAS subgroups, with some current exemptions being removed.

If you're overwhelmed by the volume and complexity of your regulatory requirements, you're not alone.

- A PwC survey found that **85%** of global respondents believe their organization's compliance requirements have become more complex in the last three years. This is driven by differing regional laws, frequent updates, and the need to comply with multiple overlapping frameworks.[6]
- Global sustainability regulations have also risen by **155%** over the past decade,[7] signaling a sea change in the demands consumers, investors, and stakeholders are making of manufacturers.

4 European Environmental Bureau. (2024, October 7). "Frequently asked questions (FAQ) about the universal PFAS restriction." https://eeb.org/library/frequently-asked-questions-faq-about-the-universal-pfas-restriction/#:~:text=In%20February%202023%2C%20a%20proposal,process%2C%20by%20presenting%20key%20information

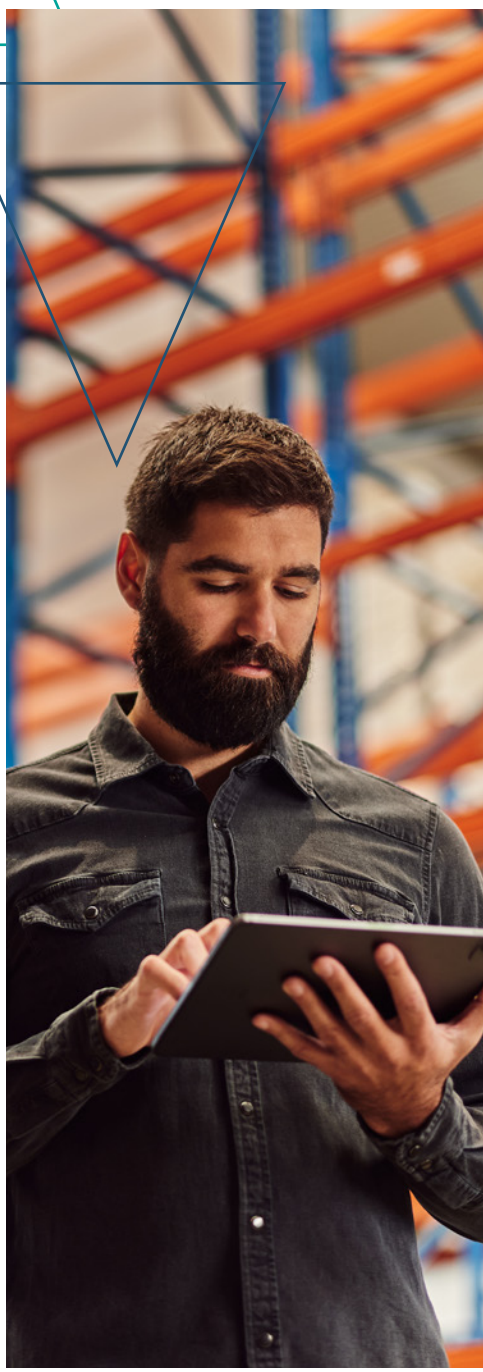
5 Government of Canada. (2025, March 5). "Government of Canada publishes State of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Report and proposed Risk Management Approach." https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/news/2025/03/government-of-canada-publishes-state-of-per--and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas-report-and-proposed-risk-management-approach.html

6 PwC. (n.d.). "Transform regulatory compliance to accelerate growth
Canadian insights from our Global Compliance Survey 2025." https://www.pwc.com/ca/en/today-s-issues/compliance-transformed/how-regulatory-compliance-can-accelerate-growth.html

7 ESG News. (2023, June 20). "Global ESG Regulation Increases by 155% Over the Past Decade." https://esgnews.com/global-esg-regulation-increases-by-155-over-the-past-decade/

When manufacturers can't easily access and share product compliance and sustainability data, there can be far-reaching business consequences.

- **Market access restrictions:** Detained goods for compliance violations can delay or prevent products from entering certain markets.
  - Since June 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has detained over 12,500 shipments valued at $3.7 billion for violating the UFLPA.[8]
- **Loss of supplier relationships:** Evolving compliance requirements can abruptly end a supplier relationship.
  - Sanctions on Russia have led to semiconductor supply chain shortages, forcing companies to seek alternative sources for essential materials like palladium and neon, which Russia and Ukraine supply over 40% and 90% of respectively. Finding new suppliers is costly and time-consuming, and requires onboarding and due diligence.
- **Supply chain disruptions:** As new risks arise, suppliers and materials may need to be replaced, potentially interrupting operations.
  - 3M will discontinue the use of PFAS across its entire product portfolio by the end of 2025. This includes eliminating it in its medical devices, semiconductors, batteries, phones, automobiles, and airplanes.
- **Reputational damage:** Customer expectations for sustainable products continue to rise. Risk could impact future revenue, market share, or investment opportunities.
  - Google faced significant reputational damage when it was revealed that some of its batteries contained cobalt sourced from mines with questionable labor practices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.[9]



8 Harwood, S., et al. (2025, January 31). "Forced Labor Update & Analysis – Fresh Names for the UFLPA Entity List." *Global Supply Chain Law Blog*. https://www.globalsupplychainlawblog.com/supply-chain/forced-labor-update-analysis-fresh-names-for-the-uflpa-entity-list/

9 Kelly, A. (2019, December 16). "Apple and Google named in US lawsuit over Congolese child cobalt mining deaths." *The Guardian*. https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2019/dec/16/apple-and-google-named-in-us-lawsuit-over-congolese-child-cobalt-mining-deaths

- **Financial penalties:** Regulatory bodies can enforce fines or financial penalties if they suspect or can prove non-compliance.
  - The European Commission fined Apple €500 million for violating the EU's **Digital Markets Act** by preventing app developers from informing users about cheaper alternatives outside the App Store. (Apple appealed the decision and made changes to its App Store rules.)[10]

Does Your Business Fall Into the Risk Gap?

You may have a risk gap if any of these issues are familiar:

- **Limited resources:** Many companies — of all sizes, across all industries — simply don't have the compliance resources they need to stay on top of evolving regulations. Often, the task of answering supplier requests and attempting to stay abreast of compliance and sustainability requirements is done off the side of someone's desk. One person can't possibly stay on top of multiple suppliers and the thousands of applicable regulations that can change at any time.

> *"With our manual approach, we would typically only be able to manage about 60 products at a time. With Assent, we can now easily handle more than 860 products and 28,000 parts."*
>
> **—Joseph Auer, Product Material Compliance Project Manager, Woodward Inc.**

10 Yun Chee, F. (2025, July 22). "Exclusive: Apple set to stave off daily fines, EU to accept App Store changes, sources say." *Reuters*. https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/boards-policy-regulation/apple-set-stave-off-daily-fines-eu-accept-app-store-changes-sources-say-2025-07-22/

- **Lack of compliance knowledge and expertise:** Compliance and sustainability management is a niche skill and requires constant vigilance. It also needs a robust system to pull information from all parts of a business, including the supply chain. Static spreadsheets, internal databases, and point solutions lack the structure and sharability needed to get the right information.
- **Reduced cross-functional communication:** Meeting regulatory requirements or responding to customer requests often requires multiple departments across an organization to share data. But siloed systems and data sets make it nearly impossible to get a complete, accurate compliance picture. This can lead to inconsistent responses and a higher risk of non-compliance.
- **Poor visibility into regulatory changes:** While regulation monitoring subscriptions are available through certain organizations, it's up to companies to comb through them regularly and identify what is applicable to their products — and everything in their supply chain. This includes complying with laws and regulations in specific regions, being aware of any material changes and labor standards along the supply chain, and asking for and educating suppliers about data required.



- **Global supplier fatigue:** Your company is not the only one asking your suppliers for data — they may be dealing with emails from thousands of other companies too. Answering all those customer requests is an enormous undertaking for them. Add language differences and a variety of data reporting formats and it becomes even more challenging. To get the data you need, you have to make it as easy as possible for them to respond.
- **Rising customer expectations:** Consumers are increasingly prioritizing their health, the climate, and worker safety in their purchasing decisions. A PwC poll found that 76% of respondents said they would stop buying from firms that neglect environmental, employee, or community well-being.[11] A transparent commitment to sustainability is critical to being competitive in today's marketplace.



Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Create Compliance Labyrinths

Growth by M&A is a common practice for many companies. But they bring supply chain risks. When there are multiple subsidiaries that come together with their own customers and suppliers — who potentially also buy from one another — the supply chain can become a tangled web for compliance. Without an integrated system that pulls data from all active suppliers, it's easy for regulatory changes to get lost in the maze.

11 PwC. (n.d.). "Beyond compliance: Consumers and employees want business to do more on ESG." https://www.pwc.com/us/en/services/consulting/library/consumer-intelligence-series/consumer-and-employee-esg-expectations.html

CHAPTER 02



What Makes a Compliance & Sustainability Program Successful?

An effective, proactive program is built on key principles and actions that address the complexities of modern supply chains. They include:

- **Supply chain visibility:** A successful program delves deep into the supply chain to identify risks and opportunities. It's critical to gain a true understanding of where materials originate and how they are sourced.
- **Supplier engagement and collaboration:** Rather than just demanding data from suppliers, a successful program actively engages them. This means making it simple for suppliers to provide data by reducing their administrative burden and offering them multilingual training and support. By making it easier for suppliers to share data, provide feedback, and get the help they need, you can increase the amount and accuracy of the data you obtain from them.
- **Centralized and automated data management:** Successful programs move away from manual, spreadsheet-based processes. They use a centralized platform to collect, manage, and analyze vast amounts of data from the supply chain. This automation is crucial for ensuring data accuracy, identifying gaps, and staying ahead of evolving regulations.

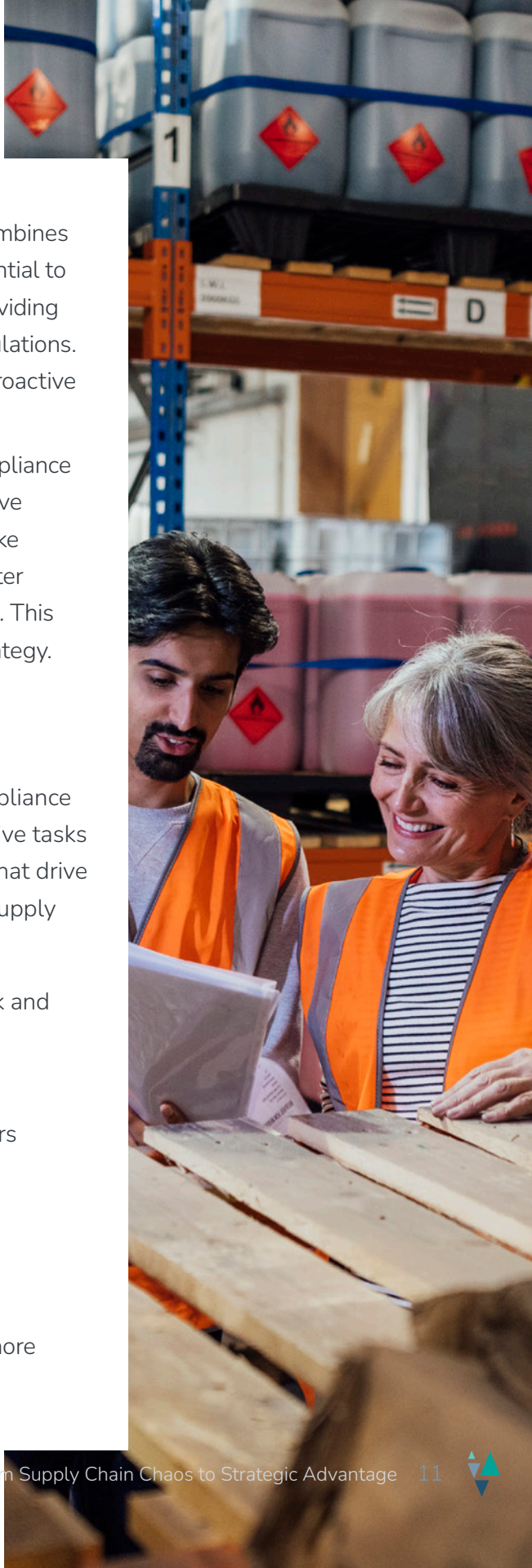
- **Expert analysis and strategic guidance:** A strong program combines technology with human expertise. Regulatory experts are essential to analyzing the collected data, identifying potential risks, and providing strategic advice on how to navigate complex and changing regulations. This goes beyond checkbox compliance and allows you to be proactive rather than reactive.
- **Demonstrating business value:** It's important not to view compliance and sustainability as costs — they're business-critical competitive differentiators. A successful program brings tangible benefits like increased market access, enhanced brand reputation, and a better bottom line, demonstrating a strong return on investment (ROI). This mindset embeds sustainability into the core of the business strategy.

What's in It for You?

In addition to reducing risk for the company overall, an efficient compliance and sustainability program will make your job easier. It takes repetitive tasks off your desk and frees up your time to focus on strategic activities that drive your business forward with the confidence that your products and supply chain are compliant and sustainable.

You know you've found the right solution when you can decrease risk and increase productivity by:

- Keeping up with regulatory changes
- Knowing what regulations apply to your suppliers and customers
- Being able to monitor supplier changes
- Building scalable, repeatable compliance processes
- Providing accurate, audit-ready data and documentation
- Responding fast to customer requests for data
- Onboarding and educating suppliers for faster responses and more accurate data





Critical Functions Assent Supports

Program Owner Jobs	Assent Covers
Parts and BOM-level data collection	☑
Material/substance declaration mapping	☑
Regulation coverage monitoring	☑
Compliance status determination	☑
Exemption management	☑
Supplier data validation	☑
Data roll-up	☑
Version control and change tracking	☑
Certificate/declaration generation	☑
Regulatory change impact assessment	☑
PLM/PDM integration	☑

In trying to set a higher standard for GE, we also discovered how much time could be saved investing in compliance. Launching products is so much faster now that we have access to this data.

—Larry W. Smith, Supplier Quality Program Senior Manager, GE Appliances

CHAPTER 03



Assent Helps You Close Your Risk Gap

There's a reason more than 1,000 manufacturers trust Assent: We offer a comprehensive platform that transforms compliance from a reactive cost center into a strategic advantage. Manufacturers use Assent to meet growing demands from both regulators and customers for transparent, actionable data, without overwhelming their teams. We do this through a unique combination of four interconnected pillars:

- Software
- Expertise
- Services
- Data

Combined, these pillars reduce your supply chain risk, protect your revenue, and significantly increase your team's productivity, allowing you to focus on what you do best: designing and creating exceptional products and getting them to market faster.

Software: Automating Your Program for Efficiency & Accuracy

Assent's powerful, audit-ready software solution replaces fragmented, manual processes (like emails and spreadsheets). This centralized platform collects, organizes, and reports supply chain sustainability data to improve risk visibility and drive decision-making.

Key features include:

- **Workflow automation:** The software is designed with workflow automation features, from supplier outreach engagements and supplier follow-up to our in-product declaration generation button that significantly reduces the time spent on collecting, analyzing, and reporting supplier and product-level program performance.
- **Streamlined processes:** The platform streamlines supplier engagement, allowing suppliers to provide two times more declarations in a single hour than legacy systems, directly translating to faster data visibility and better program outcomes.
- **Centralized data:** The platform acts as a unified hub for actionable insights across product compliance, sustainability, and trade compliance, breaking down silos between departments.



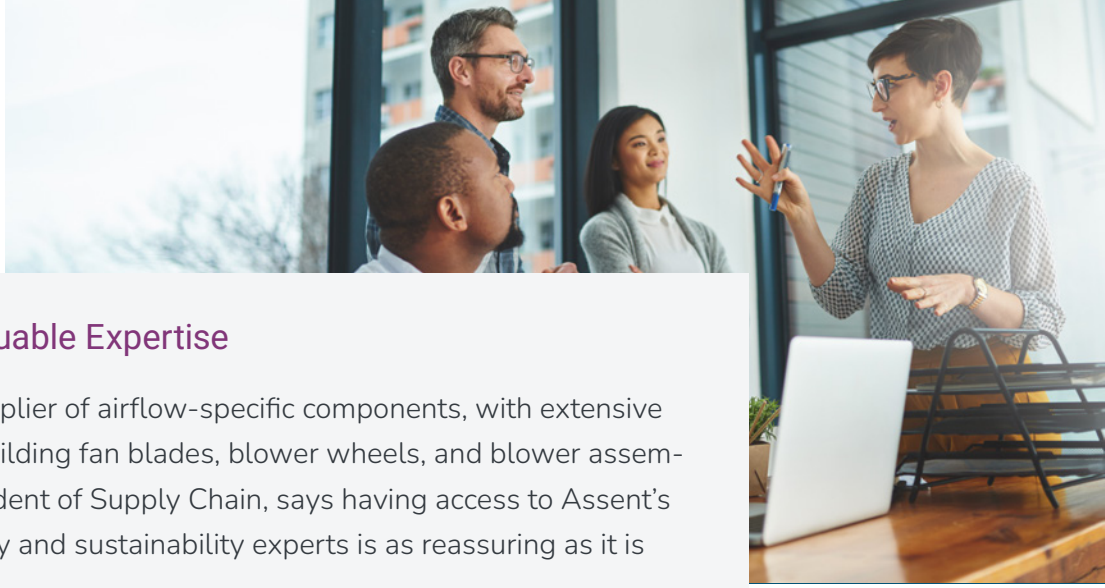
Expertise: Helping You Adapt to Existing & Emerging Regulations

Assent's global team of regulatory experts boasts over 200 years of combined experience — and they're all available to our customers. We provide program expertise and guidance around how to best structure your program based on how regulations may impact your business and supply chain.

We offer:

- **Proactive insights:** Get embedded regulatory knowledge and reporting guidance, helping you interpret complex changes and understand how new regulations, such as the EU's Ecodesign for Sustainable Products Regulation, impact your entire supply chain, from raw materials to product end-of-life.
- **Strategic guidance:** Learn what's material to your business and how to adapt to changing requirements, ensuring you proactively address potential bans or restrictions before they lead to costly redesigns or market access issues.
- **Customer-only webinars:** Get the most up-to-date regulatory knowledge straight from our experts, so your program always stays ahead of changes.





Revcor Accesses Invaluable Expertise

Revcor is an innovative supplier of airflow-specific components, with extensive expertise designing and building fan blades, blower wheels, and blower assemblies. Jeff Kathe, Vice President of Supply Chain, says having access to Assent's in-house team of regulatory and sustainability experts is as reassuring as it is efficient.

"When we ask a question on a specific piece of product compliance, the people at Assent have been able to bring in metallurgists and other folks that have expertise in those areas... Assent had somebody who understood the chemistry behind it."

Get the Case Study

Services: Dedicated Support for Your Program

We partner with you and your suppliers to implement support and continuously improve your supply chain sustainability programs.

This involves:

- **Global supplier support:** A large, multilingual supplier engagement team educates and trains your suppliers through webinars and direct outreach, increasing response rates, data coverage, and data quality while combating supplier fatigue.
- **Program management:** We offer managed services and program support, effectively shouldering much of the compliance program burden. This frees your internal teams to focus on strategic initiatives.

- **Customer success:** Dedicated managers provide live training, custom report building, and tailored support to ensure you get the most out of the platform's benefits and continuously enhance your compliance efforts.
- **AI-enhanced workflows:** Integrating AI into our services allows us to provide the efficiencies of automation with the wisdom of human experience. This accelerates outcomes that matter most, such as streamlining declaration review and improving due diligence quality. That means less time chasing data and more time focused on driving strategic initiatives. Our AI approach ensures clients:
  - Reduce risk by improving data accuracy and due diligence confidence
  - Boost productivity by eliminating time-intensive tasks and enabling faster evaluations
  - Unlock cost savings by streamlining resource-heavy, manual tasks
  - Stay competitive with real-time insights that keep pace with regulatory changes



Data: Exceptional Visibility & Actionable Intelligence

High-quality, accessible data is the backbone of any successful compliance program. Assent provides you with the most reliable and extensive data available, including:

- **Defensible due diligence:** We ensure improved data quality that stands up to regulator and stakeholder scrutiny.
- **Risk identification:** Our data enables comprehensive insights into supply chain risks, helping you proactively identify and mitigate issues before they lead to financial penalties, product recalls, or reputational damage.
- **Data reporting:** The Assent system ingests bills of materials and supplier data, and outputs product compliance reports, product declarations, sustainability risk dashboards, and reporting inserts.
- **Efficient declarations**: Your suppliers can proactively provide declarations on their own time, so when you're looking for that information, it's available to you in real-time — no notifications or additional communication required.

> *"The new Assent Sustainability Platform is comprehensive and supports a wide range of compliance standards, including REACH, RoHS, SCIP, TSCA, [conflict minerals], and more. Assent provides dedicated customer success managers and support staff to guide both clients and suppliers through the platform and lets me provide accurate data, faster."*
>
> **—Apollo Chen, Engineer at Chin Nan Precision Electronics Co. Ltd.**

A cornerstone of Assent's data pillar, and a key differentiator from point solutions or internal databases, is the Assent Sustainability Network. It's a dynamic, ever-growing ecosystem of supply chain intelligence specifically designed for complex manufacturing.

Its capabilities include:

- **Vast data coverage:** The Assent Supplier Network is continuously expanding with new supplier information and parts data. This broad network provides faster visibility into your supply chain and improves your time to value.
- **"Share once, answer many":** Instead of responding to thousands of different surveys from various customers, suppliers can share their data once with the network and it becomes accessible to all relevant customers, drastically reducing supplier fatigue and increasing response rates. This proactive data sharing means you often have access to the information you need before you have to ask for it.
- **Rapid access to information:** By tapping into this network, you gain instant access to reliable, accurate information without the tedious process of repeated outreach. For example, the network includes extensive data on PFAS alone, allowing you to quickly identify impacted parts and suppliers.

By leveraging the power of Assent's comprehensive platform — its cutting-edge software, dedicated services, in-depth expertise, and the vast Assent Sustainability Network — your organization can close the risk gap, achieve productivity gains, and ensure continued market access in an increasingly regulated world.



CHAPTER 04



Assent's Real Business Impact

We do more than help you reduce your company's compliance risk gap. Assent empowers you to transform compliance from a reactive cost center into a powerful strategic advantage for your organization, delivering measurable outcomes in risk mitigation and operational efficiency.

Momentum Cuts Compliance Workload by 80–90%

Momentum Manufacturing Group (MMG), an end-to-end metal component manufacturer, has always prioritized efficiency and compliance. But manual supplier outreach was slowing down its process. After partnering with Assent, MMG can now generate full compliance declarations for parts with known material compositions, without having to chase suppliers.

As a result, MMG has slashed its compliance workload by 80–90%, freeing up time for higher-value work.

"Assent saves me having to talk to suppliers or our purchasers in procurement. I just need to know what's in the part, and I can have a complete full material disclosure ready for our customers in minutes."

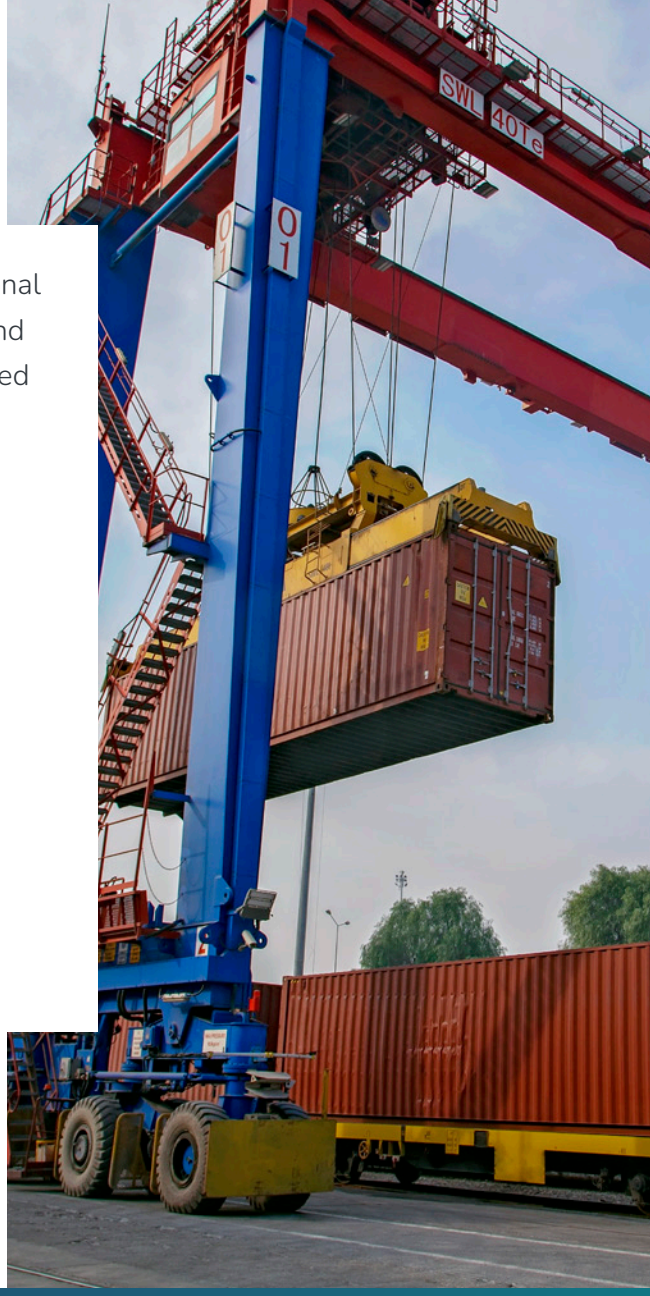
—Darci Ruggles, Director of Corporate QMS at MMG

Get the Case Study

Unlike point solutions or niche tools, Assent is built for cross-functional alignment, serving engineering, quality, supply chain, compliance, and procurement teams equally well. And only Assent delivers centralized compliance data, embedded regulatory expertise, global supplier support, and audit-ready reporting in one solution.

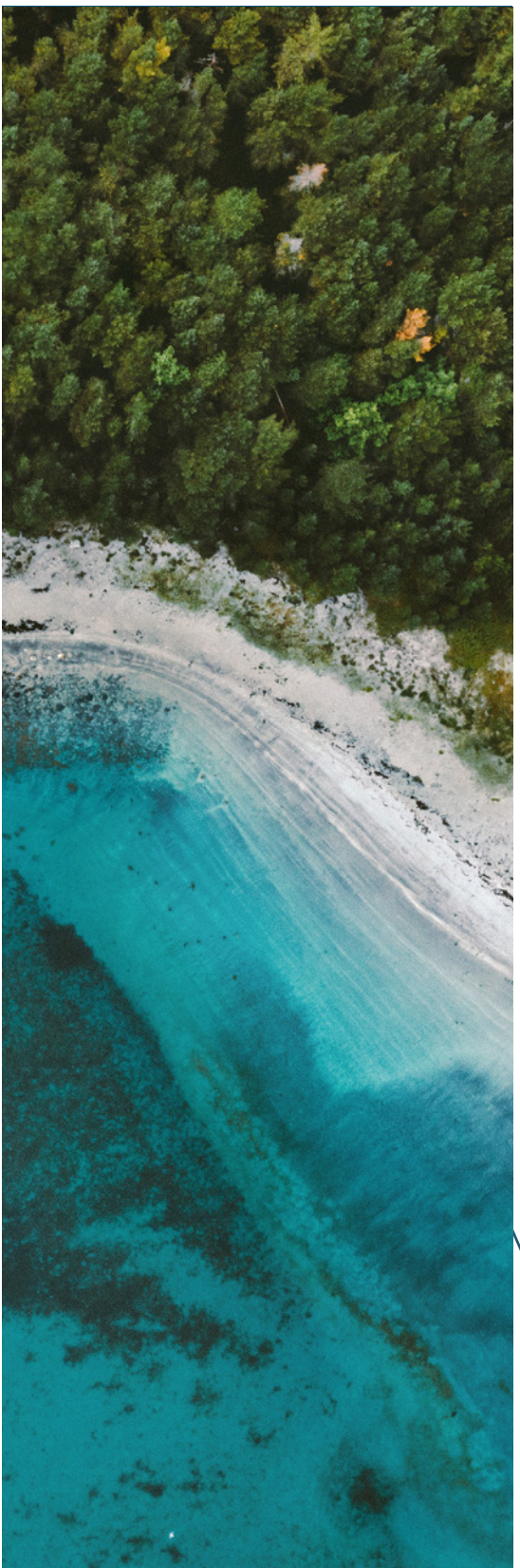
Want to see how else Assent supports your compliance and helps you achieve business success? Get our solution guide for the full breakdown.

Download the Guide



Future-ready organizations are acting now. See how you can work with Assent to get prepared.

Book a Demo



Who Is Assent?

Assent is the supply chain sustainability management solution for the world's most forward-thinking complex manufacturers. We turn sustainability goals into tangible action by delving deep into supply chains, identifying suppliers, parts, and even substances within parts to map the entire complex manufacturing genome.

What We Do

We help companies spot sustainability risks hiding deep in their supply chains and identify new areas of focus to enhance growth, efficiency, and value. By digging deep within the supply chain, we pull and validate more actionable data to provide real insights. Guided by regulatory experts with a diverse skill set, Assent's solution delivers a cross-enterprise view of sustainability that is anecessary for true leadership in the field.



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