

IMDS Submission Checklist

A Practical Guide to Smooth, Error-Free Submissions

The International Material Data System (IMDS) is the global standard for reporting material composition in the automotive industry. Yet, IMDS submissions are often delayed or rejected due to incomplete, inconsistent, or non-compliant data.

This checklist helps suppliers prepare accurate submissions and avoid costly rework.

Core Submission Requirements

- **Bill of Materials (BOM) Accuracy**
 - Ensure all parts, sub-assemblies, and materials are represented.
 - Validate weights against physical parts (+/- 1% tolerance).
- **Homogeneous Material Breakdown**
 - Split materials to the smallest homogeneous level.
 - Avoid “wildcard” or “joker” entries unless explicitly allowed.
- **Application Codes & Standards**
 - Assign correct application codes (e.g., for coatings, platings).
 - Verify compliance with REACH, RoHS, and ELV requirements.
- **Substance Declarations**
 - Flag all REACH SVHCs above 0.1%.
 - Identify restricted substances under ELV, GADSL, and OEM rules.
- **Supplier Data Validation**
 - Confirm all upstream supplier MDS are accepted and active.
 - Remove duplicates, expired, or invalid entries.
- **OEM-Specific Rules**



- Check client OEM guidelines (naming conventions, hierarchy, substance limits).
 - Apply specific rules for companies like VW, Daimler, GM, Toyota, etc.
 - **Submission Quality Control**
 - Run IMDS “Check” function to detect errors before submission.
 - Perform manual review to verify data logic and hierarchy.
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Common Pitfalls That Cause Rejections

- Weight mismatches between BOM and part drawings.
 - Overuse of “joker” substances.
 - Missing or incorrect application codes.
 - Non-disclosure of SVHCs above threshold.
 - Non-alignment with OEM-specific rejection rules.
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Why Outsource IMDS Submissions to TrueNorth

Even with a checklist, IMDS submissions remain a **time-consuming and technical burden** for suppliers. OEMs are tightening their requirements, and non-compliance risks supplier ratings, delayed launches, or blocked market entry.

Partnering with TrueNorth gives you:

1. Specialized Expertise

- Our team lives and breathes IMDS daily — eliminating guesswork and costly errors.

2. End-to-End Management

- We handle BOM breakdown, MDS creation, validation, and submission on your behalf.

3. OEM Rule Mastery



- We stay current with the latest OEM requirements and IMDS release updates (e.g., 15.0).

4. Supplier Coaching & Cleanup

- We not only fix your submissions, but also raise your supplier compliance maturity through coaching and validations.

5. Time & Cost Savings

- Free your engineers from administrative data entry so they can focus on design, quality, and innovation.

6. Seamless Integration

- IMDS data can be aligned with SCIP, REACH, and other compliance reporting — keeping you audit-ready across regulations.