



IMDS Guidelines for Suppliers

A Practical Guide to Accurate Material Declarations & Why TrueNorth is Your Best Partner

The International Material Data System (IMDS) is the automotive industry's backbone for material compliance reporting. OEMs and Tier 1s require suppliers to submit accurate, validated material declarations to ensure compliance with regulations such as **REACH**, **ELV**, and **RoHS**.

For suppliers, IMDS submissions can be overwhelming — technical details, strict OEM rules, and constant updates make it easy to fall behind. These guidelines are designed to help suppliers navigate IMDS more confidently.

✓ Core Guidelines for Suppliers

- **Understand the OEM Rules**
 - Each OEM has unique IMDS requirements (naming, hierarchy, substances).
 - Always request your customer's OEM-specific guidelines.
- **Accurate BOM (Bill of Materials) Representation**
 - Break down assemblies into sub-parts and materials.
 - Ensure part weights align with physical drawings.
- **Material Declarations**
 - Declare substances down to the *homogeneous level*.
 - Flag **SVHCs above 0.1%** and identify restricted substances.
- **Application Codes & Standards**
 - Use the correct application codes (e.g., coatings, platings).
 - Validate against ELV and GADSL restrictions.
- **Supplier Data Verification**
 - Validate incoming supplier MDSs before using them.
 - Eliminate expired or invalid entries.
- **Quality Checks Before Submission**



- Run IMDS “check” tool.
- Perform manual logic review to avoid rejection.

🚫 Common Mistakes to Avoid

- Using generic or “joker” substances instead of real compositions.
- Weight mismatches between BOM and actual parts.
- Incorrect application code assignment.
- Failure to disclose SVHCs.
- Submissions not aligned with OEM-specific rules (most common rejection reason).

💡 Why Outsource IMDS to TrueNorth

Even with guidelines in hand, suppliers face real challenges: lack of time, limited in-house expertise, and increasing OEM scrutiny. That’s where **TrueNorth Global Compliance** comes in.

By outsourcing to TrueNorth, you gain:

- 1. Specialized IMDS Experts**
 - Our team works exclusively on IMDS — avoiding costly trial-and-error.
- 2. Faster Submissions with Fewer Rejections**
 - We ensure compliance with OEM-specific rules from the start.
- 3. Supplier Coaching & Data Quality Improvement**
 - We don’t just process data — we help *your* suppliers improve too.
- 4. Seamless Integration with Other Compliance Workflows**
 - IMDS data aligned with **SCIP, REACH, and ESG reporting**.
- 5. Cost & Time Savings**
 - Free up your engineering and quality teams from time-consuming admin work.



6. Future-Ready Compliance

- We proactively prepare for IMDS updates (like the shift to 15.0 and beyond).

Get It Right the First Time with TrueNorth

Suppliers that try to manage IMDS in-house often face **delays, rejections, and strained OEM relationships**. TrueNorth ensures your submissions are accurate, on-time, and fully aligned with OEM expectations.

 *Work with TrueNorth and turn IMDS from a burden into a competitive advantage.*