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EPCIS and DSCSA: Enhancing Supply Chain Visibility for Optimal Track and Trace



In the ever-evolving landscape of pharmaceutical distribution, ensuring a secure and transparent supply chain is paramount. The Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA) mandates comprehensive track and trace capabilities to safeguard against counterfeit drugs and enhance patient safety. Leveraging Electronic Product Code Information Services (EPCIS) is a pivotal strategy in achieving these objectives. This article delves into how EPCIS can significantly enhance supply chain visibility and compliance under the DSCSA.

Understanding EPCIS and DSCSA

What is EPCIS?

Electronic Product Code Information Services is a global standard that enables the seamless exchange of product movement and status information within and across enterprises. EPCIS is designed to capture and share data about physical events—such as the packing, shipping, and receiving of products—thus providing a detailed history of the product's journey through the supply chain.

Overview of DSCSA

The **Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)**, enacted in 2013, establishes a system for electronic track and trace at the package level for pharmaceuticals

distributed in the United States. The goal is to protect consumers from exposure to drugs that may be counterfeit, stolen, adulterated, or otherwise harmful. The DSCSA requires trading partners to share information about the drug's path through the supply chain, thus ensuring its authenticity and integrity.

The Role of EPCIS in DSCSA Compliance

- **Enhancing Track and Trace Capabilities:** Under the DSCSA, pharmaceutical companies are required to implement systems that can track the movement of products at every stage of the supply chain. EPCIS plays a crucial role in this process by providing the necessary infrastructure to capture and share event data related to product movements. This includes detailed information about where a product has been, who has handled it, and its current status.
- **Improving Supply Chain Visibility:** EPCIS enables end-to-end visibility across the supply chain. By capturing event data at each critical point, EPCIS allows stakeholders to see the entire lifecycle of a product. This enhanced visibility is essential for quickly identifying and addressing any discrepancies, thus preventing counterfeit products from entering the market.
- **Facilitating Compliance with DSCSA Requirements:** Compliance with the DSCSA requires meticulous record-keeping and data sharing among all parties in the supply chain. EPCIS simplifies this process by standardizing the data capture and exchange mechanisms. This ensures that all trading partners can seamlessly share accurate and timely information, thereby meeting the stringent requirements of the DSCSA.

Benefits of Implementing EPCIS for DSCSA Compliance

- **Increased Operational Efficiency:** Implementing EPCIS can streamline supply chain operations by automating data capture and reducing the need for manual record-keeping. This not only enhances efficiency but also minimizes the risk of human error, ensuring more accurate and reliable data.

- **Enhanced Security and Patient Safety:** By providing comprehensive visibility into the supply chain, EPCIS helps quickly identify points of entry for counterfeit, stolen, adulterated, or otherwise compromised products. EPCIS can also be used to accelerate the identification of recalled product in the supply chain and the approximate locations it may have traveled. This proactive approach is crucial for maintaining the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain and ensuring patient safety.
- **Cost Savings:** While the initial implementation of EPCIS may require an investment, the long-term benefits include significant cost savings. By automating compliance processes and improving operational efficiency, companies can reduce labor costs and avoid costly regulatory fines associated with non-compliance.

Enhance your supply chain with EPCIS today and stay ahead in the ever-evolving pharmaceutical landscape.

In the context of the DSCSA, the adoption of **Electronic Product Code Information Services (EPCIS)** is not just beneficial but essential. EPCIS enhances supply chain visibility, improves track and trace capabilities, and ensures compliance with regulatory requirements. By implementing EPCIS, pharmaceutical companies can safeguard their supply chains, protect consumers, and achieve long-term operational efficiency.

For more information on how EPCIS can transform your supply chain operations under the DSCSA, contact our experts and begin your journey toward a more secure and transparent pharmaceutical distribution network.

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Fill out the form to schedule a meeting with us now.

Thank you for contacting us; we'll be in touch shortly.

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