



CASE STUDY:

Pearl Izumi Reduces Seasonal Testing Time and Administrative Costs by 52%

With more than 60 years of experience designing technical-performing and quality athletic wear, Pearl Izumi's mission remains steadfast: to drive evolution, revolution and change in the design and construction of high performance apparel and footwear. From base layers to outerwear for runners and cyclists, Pearl Izumi has engineered decades of R&D and integrated essential input from world-class athletes into every product while also delivering a lifetime warranty to every customer.

Pearl Izumi's commitment to designing, testing and manufacturing products to meet the real-world demands of the 4-season outdoor athlete requires a rigorous focus on innovation, technical performance and quality. The process begins in the design stage of the product development lifecycle and continues through the manufacture of finished products. Pearl Izumi leverages a best of breed technology strategy to support their development processes by combining the use of Texbase with PLM and ERP software solutions. For materials and quality, Pearl Izumi relies on Texbase to support their efforts to innovate and test new fabric technologies, optimize and streamline their development processes, and assure that quality is engineered into every stage of a product's evolution from initial concept to winning races the world over.

Challenges

- Existing PLM and ERP systems did not efficiently generate, track or retrieve material testing data thereby inhibiting Pearl Izumi's ability to effectively analyze the information and make timely decisions.
- Test data was 'locked' in static pdf files requiring manual entry into Excel or other desktop applications for analysis. As a result, it took months to enter data, determine status and analyze results.
- System constraints made it difficult to quickly and accurately assess the history of past test results to decide what materials and trims were requiring new tests based on current development requirements.
- Adding, maintaining and managing raw material developments across internal customers and their global supply chain was cumbersome.
- Keeping current on quality, performance and compliance initiatives was difficult due to resource issues associated with manual processes and additional constraints brought on by global expansion.

Provided Solutions PLM and ERP Could Not

Reclaimed 52% of Testing Costs and Calendar

Automated Manual Processes

Integrated with PLM

Strengthened Supplier Relationships

Accelerated Speed to Market

Solutions

“The value we see from Texbase is absolutely quantifiable. It saves time and money, gets us to market faster and validates our compliance objectives.”

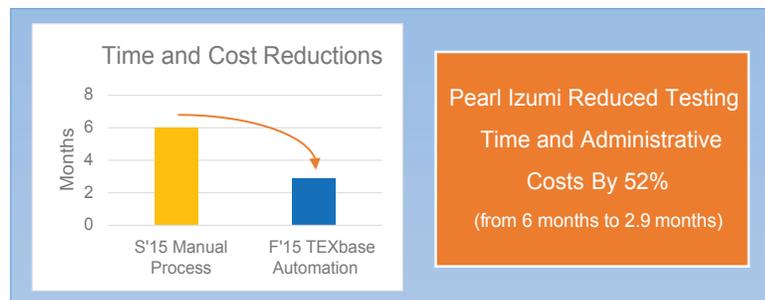
– Carol Little

Sr. Materials
Development Manager,
Pearl Izumi

- Implemented Texbase as their global raw material platform including sourcing, material development, color approval, quality/performance specifications and lab testing.
- Leveraged Texbase CONNECT to standardize communication with suppliers enabling mills and labs to easily access quality/performance specifications, clearly understand testing requirements and efficiently return both testing data and supporting documentation.
- Utilized data integration between their PLM system and Texbase to rapidly communicate required material and color information.
- Adopted the full suite of Texbase products to supplement their existing PLM and ERP systems.

Results

- Reduced test report turnaround time and strengthened material quality related to on-time, every-time production by using Texbase in parallel with PLM/ERP to create a comprehensive and feature-rich material innovation, quality control and product development platform.
- Spending less time manually entering and analyzing data has allowed Pearl Izumi to fine tune their quality processes and focus more time on the development of comprehensive specifications and technical material development. This results in more time being creative and less time chasing data.



- The use of Texbase CONNECT has enabled real-time data exchange with vendors – ensuring accuracy, consistency and compliance to Pearl Izumi’s aggressive development timelines and quality standards.
- Texbase’s unique Auto-Eval function delivers “management by exception” providing for lightning-fast test report disposition and conflict resolution.
- Increased supplier accountability and performance. Communicating specifications, and generating test requests from those requirements, has delivered exceptional process and data clarity which has led to higher quality materials and accelerated product innovation.
- Scaled operations in support of aggressive growth in testing requirements while reducing overhead costs and IT support.

Texbase provides compliance, quality and materials management software solutions that power great product experiences. We innovate quality assurance data management, supplier collaboration and product compliance solutions for the apparel, footwear and consumer products industries. Texbase is a pioneer in web based business solutions and collaboration platforms that unite brands, retailers, suppliers and testing labs that trace compliance and quality from raw materials to finished product.