

A CLEAR Approach to VPP

How Intertape Polymer Group Utilized CLEAR to Create an Efficient, Visible, and Collaborative VPP Process

1 NEW VPP STAR SITE	213 SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	14 ACTIVE USERS	8–10 ESTIMATED ADMINISTRATIVE HOURS SAVED	Ahead of Schedule EVALUATION COMPLETED
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01 Executive Summary

When Intertape Polymer Group's Tremonton facility began preparing for its initial VPP evaluation, the organization chose to approach the traditionally manual and document-heavy process differently.

IPG implemented CLEAR, a purpose-built digital platform for VPP management, to centralize its preparation, supporting documentation, progress tracking, and collaboration.

The site used CLEAR to work through VPP requirements, develop responses, organize 213 supporting documents, monitor readiness, and provide the evaluation team access to information before arriving on site.

The result was a more organized and visible preparation process that helped the site enter its evaluation with a high level of readiness. The evaluation was completed ahead of schedule, with team leaders estimating a 50% reduction in time spent on administrative work.

Following the evaluation, the site rated its overall experience with CLEAR Very Satisfied and the platform Very Easy to learn and use. The site was also Extremely Likely to continue using CLEAR to manage its VPP program and Extremely Likely to recommend it to another site.

02 Challenge

Preparing for and maintaining VPP requires organizations to manage extensive documentation, narrative responses, supporting evidence, employee involvement, program gaps, evaluation preparation, and ongoing program responsibilities.

Yet those activities are often managed through disconnected shared drives, spreadsheets, emails, physical documentation, and EHS systems that were not designed around the VPP process.

IPG already uses an established EHS platform for day-to-day safety management, but it did not provide functionality specifically structured around VPP.

“We use an EHS platform for most of our day to day EHS management. And they just don’t have anything that works for that process. That’s not a function they have.”

MARTIN VRABEL, CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY, IPG

Without a centralized process, it can be difficult for sites to maintain visibility into what requirements have been addressed, what documentation supports each requirement, what remains incomplete, and whether the organization is truly prepared for evaluation.

For IPG, the opportunity was not simply to digitize documentation. It was to create a more structured, visible, and collaborative way to manage VPP at the site level and ultimately enterprise wide.

03 Solution

IPG used CLEAR as a framework and centralized environment for its VPP preparation and on-site evaluation.

The site worked through applicable VPP requirements, developed narrative responses, uploaded supporting documentation, linked evidence directly to the requirements it supported, and monitored completion through the preparation dashboard.

Introducing another technology platform was not automatically viewed as the solution. The value had to come from providing functionality that was meaningfully different from the systems the site was already maintaining and specifically aligned with the VPP process.

“Honestly I was a little skeptical because I didn’t really want another software to maintain. But as we started investigating it with the CLEAR team, understanding what it provides that’s different than other documentation platforms and how it stands apart, then I was all on board.”

BILL BOURGEOIS, OPERATIONS MANAGER, IPG TREMONTON

In a post on-site evaluation feedback survey, IPG site users ranked CLEAR features were Audit Question Organization, Document Library, and Preparation Dashboard as the highest ranked features. Those capabilities directly supported areas the site later identified as important to its preparation. That same survey showed the site Strongly Agreed that CLEAR helped IPG personnel understand what documentation was needed, provided greater visibility into VPP readiness, and made it easier to know what still needed to be completed before the evaluation.

04 Results

✓ A site that entered the evaluation highly prepared.

The site's post-evaluation feedback showed that the structure provided by CLEAR translated into greater readiness. IPG site users Strongly Agreed that CLEAR gave them greater visibility into its VPP readiness and made it easier to identify what still needed to be completed before the evaluation. They also Agreed that CLEAR helped IPG personnel feel more prepared when the evaluation team arrived and Strongly Agreed that CLEAR contributed to the overall success of the evaluation.

The evaluation team noticed the difference.

“I think the sheer amount of time and effort they put into going through the evaluation themselves, answering the question themselves, providing supporting documents, meeting with Mike [an independent consultant], doing those mock interviews, mock evaluations—all of that paid dividends over and over.”

EVALUATION TEAM MEMBER

The site saw the same payoff from the inside. Working through the requirements in CLEAR ahead of the evaluation was itself a form of preparation, giving site personnel a clearer command of the program before the team arrived.

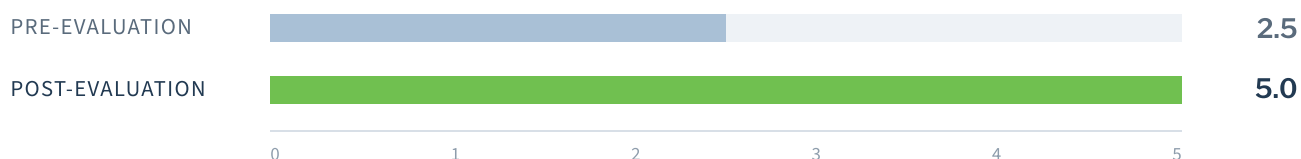
“The payoff [of using CLEAR] during the audit made this one of the most efficient audits I have been involved with. The knowledge I gained from using this system was huge in preparing our team for the audit.”

BLAKE BURBANK, SITE SAFETY MANAGER, IPG

👥 Greater organizational visibility and collaboration.

Nine users from the IPG site and five members on the evaluation team, totaling 14 active users, worked collaboratively within the platform during the evaluation process. Evaluation-team visibility into overall and teammate progress increased from a pre-evaluation average of 2.5/5 to 5/5 following the evaluation. From the site's perspective, the post-evaluation survey also concluded that CLEAR helped their team stay organized and fostered collaboration throughout the preparation process.

FIGURE 1 — EVALUATION-TEAM VISIBILITY INTO OVERALL AND TEAMMATE PROGRESS



Less administrative work and more valuable on-site time.

Members of the evaluation team estimated that CLEAR resulted in an approximately 50% reduction in time associated with manual transcription, consolidating evaluator input, and formatting the final report.

“It’s less report writing. The philosophy... [is] fewer documents, fewer paperwork, more time on the floor, more time walking the site.”

EVALUATION TEAM MEMBER

The organizational benefits of CLEAR carried into the on-site evaluation. The site Agreed that evaluators were able to easily locate needed documentation and Strongly Agreed that the mobile findings feature made it easy to manage and track corrective actions during the evaluation. Because CLEAR allowed the evaluation team the ability to remotely access supporting documentation, the on-site evaluation required very little collective document review, and the evaluation ultimately finished ahead of schedule.

“They were actually ahead of schedule, and we finished a little bit early, which, you know, is typically not how that goes...”

MARTIN VRABEL, CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY, IPG

A more sustainable approach to VPP management.

The value extended beyond preparing for a single evaluation. Centralizing VPP information created an opportunity for IPG to retain successful approaches and apply what worked at Tremonton elsewhere in the organization.

“We can find things that work for Tremonton and we can look at those, take what we need, adjust, and it’s just in one place.”

MARTIN VRABEL, CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF SAFETY, IPG

The site’s post-evaluation feedback supports that longer-term value. In addition to being Extremely Likely to continue using CLEAR and recommend it to another site, the majority of site respondents identified the most valuable aspect of CLEAR as “Having everything in one place for everyone at the same time.”

The Tremonton experience demonstrates that modernizing VPP management can improve efficiency, strengthen organizational visibility, support collaboration, and create a more structured path to evaluation readiness without changing the rigor or expectations of VPP.

For organizations committed to VPP excellence, the opportunity is to apply the principle of continuous improvement not only to the safety and health management system itself, but also to the way VPP is managed.

By reducing the time and administrative burden associated with VPP, CLEAR allows sites and evaluation teams to focus more of their attention and resources on what matters most: strengthening safety and health performance and creating safer workplaces for the people VPP is ultimately designed to protect.

INTERTAPE POLYMER GROUP • INITIAL VPP EVALUATION