SAP Solution Brief
SAP Business Suite

SAP Master Data Governance

MATERIAL MASTER DATA GOVERNANCE FOR SAP® BUSINESS SUITE

CONTROL DATA CREATION, QUALITY, AND CONSISTENCY

The SAP® Master Data Governance application centralizes the creation and management of material master data in SAP Business Suite software. With the application, companies can maintain, validate, and distribute material master data; improve master data accuracy and consistency; and facilitate compliance.

Manufacturing and logistics organizations face complex material master data governance challenges. Without integrated, centralized data governance, companies have unstructured data processes that are not sufficiently controlled or guided. Data collection is time-consuming, slow, and error-prone. Homegrown, hard-coded solutions have a high total cost of ownership (TCO) and do not provide the flexibility required by business units from finance to procurement.

To optimize material master data governance, companies need to establish "maintain once, use everywhere" best practices, and reduce costs by eliminating redundant maintenance efforts and duplicate entries. Companies must increase the quality of material master data through central management and governance. Gain consistent insight into sales, manufacturing, and procurement volumes. Accelerate availability of up-to-date master data across the business network. Improve transparency into material data creation and changes. And leverage existing enterprise software investments.

The SAP® Master Data Governance application has powerful functionality to centralize management of material master data in SAP Business Suite software. The application enables companies like yours to create, maintain, validate, approve, replicate, and adapt material master data. With SAP Master Data Governance you can:

- Improve the consistency of material master data across the entire business network
- Document changes along the lifecycle of a material to help ensure compliance
- Enable collaborative and traceable material master data management
- Provide a single version of material master data, for greater efficiency and quality

Centralized, Integrated Governance

Without a sophisticated governance solution, material master data is often maintained in different systems, and a variety of inefficient, error-prone, and time-consuming transactions are required to perform data maintenance tasks. Requests and reasons for new or changed data are communicated by phone or e-mail to specialists, who must then gather further information from other experts and stakeholders. Follow-up processing must be triggered manually. Approval processes with a two-person rule – for example, business decisions and transactions that require sign-off from both the CEO and CFO – cannot be accommodated. Furthermore, planned changes are not visible to other applications and users throughout the organization.

SAP Master Data Governance enables centralized governance of your material master data, so you can create and maintain data in a single location while allowing the data to be safely and reli-

ably used and reused throughout the organization. Standardized, workflow-driven processes allow flexibility while helping ensure efficiency. A user-friendly interface provides business users across the spectrum with role-based access to the information they need, when they need it.

Natively integrated with your existing SAP software, SAP Master Data Governance is fast and straightforward to implement. Its data model and business logic follow the best practices supported by SAP Business Suite. The application reuses existing data structures, business validations, and various services, and it leverages existing logic and configurations to help ensure material master data quality and facilitate data validation and enrichment.

With SAP Master Data Governance, you can eliminate the need for manual maintenance of material master data in multiple systems, while still allowing for the use of controlled, localized applications. You can use central governance functionality for identifying and selecting descriptive data, while process-controlling attributes, such as plant or sales data, can be maintained locally. Integrated staging, approval, and central audit trail functionality facilitate compliance and transparency, and the application enables consistent definition, authorization, and replication.

Process and Data Standardization

SAP Master Data Governance coordinates and controls all activities for managing material master data. The application provides the structure to enforce process and data standardization and authorization, while allowing the flexibility needed to meet the requirements of your company's various business units, groups, and users.

Built-in guidance, monitoring, and reporting functionality, using a standard workflow tool, enables coordinated process and data governance. Data, process, and issue resolution information is kept in a single location, giving business users fast access to all relevant information. Upload functionality increases the speed of updates and streamlines integration between systems. Governance functionality avoids creation of duplicates and helps ensure completeness and accuracy of data.

With integrated rules-management functionality, the application has the flexibility to meet your organization's needs. You can employ workflow-based governance processes, either linear or distributed, with defined roles and responsibilities for creating, changing, and approving material data. You can extend governance processes by adding business logic, so you can manage data quality as well.

Data Creation, Change, and Approval

When creating or making changes to material data, users from different business units across the enterprise are involved. Without an integrated governance solution, material items are immediately available in the system as soon as the first user saves the entries, which can create problems. Incomplete material items and partial changes often exist, and planned changes are usually not visible to business users. Users can create a new material item even when the material master already exists in the system, resulting in poor data quality and generating unnecessary costs.

SAP Master Data Governance provides functionality for change requests with built-in approval processes. Automated, regulated processes speed and provide visibility into decision-making activities, keep all relevant information in one place, and help you improve data quality and ensure that compliance requirements are met.

Requests are automatically routed to the proper stakeholder, with functionality allowing for commenting by different expert users and stakeholders. The change process is completed upon the approval or rejection of the authorized business user or master data specialist.

Data Staging and Duplicate Checks

Material data that is still awaiting approval is stored in a separate repository, for transfer to operational database after approval. Incomplete data is stored in an inactive version, which helps ensure that material data can only be used in business processes when it is approved, improving process quality. Rejected change requests don't create a material number in your SAP ERP application, improving data quality. Pending data changes can be made available to concerned users and

groups for review before they are released to the organization as a whole, increasing transparency and helping you become more agile and proactive while reducing errors and duplications.

The application automatically performs duplicate checks, to avoid creation of already existing material items. Information on potential duplicates is provided during searches for material data and when checking change requests. A final duplicate check is performed when a change request is released.

Empowering Business Users to Increase Efficiency

A user-friendly interface and sophisticated functionality empower business users across the enterprise. Users can search for material data stored in the active area as well as the staging area – unlike typical solutions with functionality that only allows searches of operational or active data. Search functionality is comprehensive, simplifying and improving the efficiency of daily activities. Integration into change request processing enhances productivity, and the inclusion of inactive data from the staging area reduces parallel change processes.

Business users can display data for a single material, toggle between active and inactive area, and edit and copy material master data. They can access other information such as change documents, key mapping data, display replication logs, and duplicate-check results. They can review changes and check the consistency of inactive data. And they can validate to ensure consistent updates of active data, add and enhance data, and approve new and changed data.

Data Replication and Extensibility

With SAP Master Data Governance, you can replicate material master data for your SAP software environment as well as non-SAP solutions. The application gives you the flexibility to replicate data only to specific client systems using defined filters and supports the use of different material IDs and different customizing keys between hub and client systems. SAP Master Data Governance integrates with data services solutions for cleansing, matching, and consolidation activities.

You can reuse business logic and functionality in your existing SAP software environment, improving efficiency and TCO. And you can use predefined content fields, such as plant or sales data, or create specific extensions and custom applications to suit your organization's requirements.

Key Business Benefits

The SAP Master Data Governance application enables you to centralize the creation and maintenance of your material master data. The master data can then be distributed to your enterprise applications.

With the application, you can improve the consistency of material master data and increase business process efficiency across the organization. You can facilitate collaborative and traceable material master data management and provide a single version of material master data for higher efficiency and quality. And you can document changes along the lifecycle of a material to help ensure compliance.

SAP Master Data Governance provides powerful functionality for the centralized management of material master data to help you create, maintain, validate, approve, replicate, and adapt material master data.

Reduce TCO using an integrated, process-centric application that enables centralized governance for material master data domains, and through native integration with SAP enterprise software, using existing business logic and infrastructure. Improve ROI on existing IT investment by reusing existing processing logic. The application adapts to your needs with configurable workflows and extensible data models.

Find Out More

To learn more about how the SAP Master Data Governance application can help you better manage material master data, call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/master-data-governance.

QUICK FACTS

www.sap.com/contactsap

Summary

The SAP® Master Data Governance application centralizes the creation and management of material master data in SAP Business Suite software, enabling companies to maintain, validate, and distribute master data. With the application, you can improve the accuracy and consistency of your master data and facilitate government compliance.

Business Challenges

- Decentralized material data creation and maintenance can lead to multiple versions of data, poor data quality, and inefficient processes that depend on that data
- Manual data maintenance activities are time-consuming, slow, error-prone, and often duplicated
- Homegrown, hard-coded solutions have a high total cost of ownership (TCO) and are not flexible enough to meet business requirements

Key Features

- **Governance** – Create and maintain material master data in a single location while allowing data to be safely and reliably used and reused
- **Standardization** – Gain flexibility with integrated rules-management and workflow-driven processes while helping enforce standardization and authorization
- **Interactivity and usability** – Give business users role-based access to the information they need, when they need it, through a sophisticated, intuitive interface
- **Compliance** – Document changes along the lifecycle of a material to help ensure compliance

Business Benefits

- **Increase business process efficiency** across the organization through improved material master data quality
- **Reduce TCO** by automating data management tasks and eliminating data duplication activities
- **Facilitate compliance** through collaborative and traceable material master data management
- **Improve ROI on existing IT investment** by reuse of existing processing logic

For More Information

To learn more about how the SAP Master Data Governance application can help you better manage material master data, call your SAP representative or visit us online at www.sdn.sap.com/irj/sdn/master-data-governance.

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