

DESIGN CHAIN ASSOCIATES

OVERVIEW OF SERVICES



The Design Chain Associates team and our consulting partners have a tremendous range of skills and depth of experience in product development, supply chain management, manufacturing, logistics, and environmental stewardship that brings value daily to our clients. We take this breadth of experience and expertise and apply it in areas that we find manufacturers of discrete products need our help the most. We focus in the following three areas: Environment, Product Lifecycle, and Supply Chain Management.

Environment DCA helps product manufacturers and their supplier partners understand and efficiently comply with environmental regulations and customer requirements around the world. We offer a suite of services, including

- ❖ Assessing the regulations and customer demands your products are subject to in their markets
- ❖ Educating engineering, management, and your supply base about technical, tactical, and strategic approaches to environmental compliance, and competitive positioning in markets
- ❖ Tracking regulations and standards in your markets and helping you stay ahead of them
- ❖ Getting access to regulators, legislators, standards bodies and NGOs to make sure your voice is heard

DCA covers all aspects of product-targeted environmental regulations (PTER), including chemical substances, producer responsibility, energy use, carbon footprint, and Design for Environment. Our consulting partners cover corporate environmental issues such as achieving ISO 14000 compliance, CDP reporting, and social responsibility.

Product Lifecycle Producer responsibility, customer satisfaction, warranty support, and recapture along with new and robust accounting rules are forcing companies to address these challenges in the product lifecycle planning process. DCA helps companies understand these demands and add efficiently and effectively address them at the right time during the lifecycle. DCA's service areas include

- ❖ Supplier/Technology Relationship Management and Integration
- ❖ Quality Systems Assessment
- ❖ Design for Recycling and End-of-Life
- ❖ Achieving and Maintaining Safety/EMC/RF Compliance (via consulting partners)
- ❖ Reverse Logistics

Supply Chain Management Material purchases can account for as much as 80% of total expenditures. That exceeds the cost of salaries, facilities, product development and marketing combined. In today's highly competitive marketplace where razor-thin margins rule, proper management of the supply chain directly affects your bottom line profitability. DCA has more than a half century of supply chain management experience ranging from small start-up companies to tier one multinationals like Hewlett Packard. We have the knowledge, tools and proven track record to help you realize your design and supply chain's full potential to deliver

- ❖ An uninterrupted supply of high quality material
- ❖ Lower costs, at higher levels of service
- ❖ End of life, obsolescence and scrap management
- ❖ Supply chain integrity
- ❖ Improved cycle times and reduced inventory

Outside all of these specific areas, but encompassed by all, are our **Expert Services**. Companies of all types come to DCA for special tasks or services that do not appear on our standard list of offerings or are not apparent from our literature. These include surveys, white papers, benchmarking, and other services. We have a broad range of expertise available and can help you achieve your goals.

Depend on Design Chain Associates For more than a decade, companies across North America and the world have come to rely on DCA's expertise. We know suppliers, components, and the product lifecycle, and we know the needs of discrete product manufacturers. We can help you define and/or meet your business goals and gain competitive advantage: Talk to DCA.