

# Chemical translation: The key to international success

The global chemical industry was reportedly worth over four trillion US dollars in 2018 (approximately three trillion pounds sterling). Imports and exports play a huge part in the success of this vast chemical industry. The value of Western Europe's exports alone amounted to almost 600 million US dollars that year.

## Chemical Translation Services

In order to take advantage of the industry's booming research, manufacture, and trade, companies worldwide are turning to chemical translation services. Expanding into international markets isn't a straightforward process and professional translators can help businesses to navigate international waters.

Below, we've outlined some of the key factors that businesses should take into account when choosing a chemical translation services company.

## Overcoming Translation Challenges

### 1. Avoiding mistranslation

Chemical translation services should only be offered by reputable companies. At best, mistranslations can cause a loss of time, at worst they can cause potentially fatal misunderstandings.

An example of the latter happened in 2017, when a Chinese pharmaceutical company misnamed an ingredient in an anti-itch product. The FDA issued an official warning and the Chinese company explained that a translation mistake had caused the issue. Misnaming ingredients, active substances and processes could lead to serious consequences for both the customers and the company.

A keyway of avoiding mistranslation is to employ a company with proven experience in the sector. Many translators will keep a glossary of specific words and phrases, maintaining consistency in single documents as well as across entire projects. These professionals will also fully understand the documents they are translating, which minimises the margin of error.

### 2. Meeting Regulations

Policies surrounding the research, manufacture and distribution of chemicals vary depending on the country or area. Translations of official documents, packaging, labels, etc. must conform to local rules. It is therefore advisable to select professional chemical translation services, with linguists who have knowledge of the industry.

For instance, in the European Union, the 2007 regulation REACH was established to control the protection and use of substances. More specifically, REACH stands for the 'Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals'. According to the European Chemicals Agency website, the regulation "places the burden of proof on companies" who must demonstrate safety and communicate risk management measures.

### 3. Understanding Terminology

#### Translating scientific language

Scientific jargon varies between languages and even geographic regions. Entire monolingual dictionaries exist for logging and referencing chemical industry terminology. This makes chemical industry translations a complex process.

Additionally, there may be concepts without direct equivalents in the source and target languages. For example, health and safety codes, ways of working, and job roles need to be fully understood and researched before they can be translated into the new language.

#### Translating meanings

It may also be necessary to navigate vague texts, where meanings are either accidentally or purposefully unclear. Equally, complex documents such as patents, quality assurance documents, and hazard warnings may require knowledge of other industries.

For the above reasons, it is extremely important to choose translators who are native speakers of the target language and who have experience in the chemical industry.

#### How TW Languages can help

TW Languages are at the forefront of chemical translation services. We provide a fast turnaround for all documents and assign a project manager to oversee your project. As a team, we use the latest technologies and project management techniques to guide you through the translation process.

As an ISO 17100 company, TW Languages has been certified as a provider of quality translation services. This means that our work meets high standards and we also implement quality assurance procedures across our language services.

TW Languages has helped more than 200 businesses to translate approximately 40 million words in the chemical translation field; our translators are specialists in their field and yours.

**Let us know how we can help you with our project by sending us a message.**

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