



eBook

What Is EHS Compliance?

Table of Contents

What Is EHS Compliance



EHS Compliance Regulations



EHS Compliance Checklist



How Can Evotix Help?



Contact Us



What Is EHS Compliance?

EHS, or environment, health and safety, is a broad term that refers to the laws, rules, regulations, professions and programs dedicated to protecting the safety and well-being of a workplace.

EHS compliance refers to industry regulations that layout the rules, policies and protocols necessary for the upkeep of a healthy, safe and environmentally friendly workplace.

And why is EHS important? Well, by complying with EHS regulations, organizations can reduce incidents, improve productivity as well as bolster employee morale. Non-compliance can have a long-term, detrimental impact on organizations.

Official bodies exist to monitor EHS compliance. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) operates within the United States, Health and Safety Executive (HSE) oversees the UK and Safe Work enforces health and safety in Australia.



Why Do You Need EHS Compliance?

EHS compliance is a legal requirement and failure to comply can result in a number of serious consequences, including:

- ✓ **Financial penalties**
- ✓ **Injury, illness or death**
- ✓ **Loss of reputation**
- ✓ **Loss of customer support**
- ✓ **Lawsuits**
- ✓ **Imprisonment**
- ✓ **Environmental damage**

Besides having a legal obligation to be compliant, adhering to EHS standards should be driven by a moral obligation on the part of your organization. Being EHS compliant provides your employees, as well as the general public, with solid evidence that you're serious about their safety.

EHS compliance is no longer just "nice to have." In today's world, companies can get in real trouble as a result of their lax EHS standards, which can greatly influence customer decision making.

Disasters can happen as a direct result of EHS non-compliance. The West Fertilizer Co. explosion in West, Texas is a notable example of this.

After failing to disclose unsafe stores of chemicals, as well as other safety violations, an explosion killed 14 people, including firefighters and rescue workers.



The Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico is another heart-breaking reminder of the disastrous consequence of non-compliance.

Multiple hazards were overseen and ignored, leading to the **death of 11 people.**

An incident doesn't have to be catastrophic to impact an organization. Even much less dramatic events can have detrimental consequences for a company's productivity levels and reputation. Adhering to EHS measures benefits your organization financially, as it enables you to dodge unnecessary downtimes, fines and lawsuits.

Employer Responsibilities

Under health and safety laws, employers are legally responsible for the health and safety of their workplace.

The organization's activities shouldn't negatively interfere with the health or safety of its employees or the environment around them. Some responsibilities include:

PPE:

According to iHASCO, thousands of PPE-related injuries and accidents occur in the workplace as a result of its absence or misuse. It is the duty of the employer to provide appropriate safety equipment to their staff, to ensure that each employee stays safe. Employees should also be trained on how to correctly use and remove PPE.

Regular audits and inspections:

Employers have a legal duty to assess, control and eliminate risks in the workplace in order to protect their people. Audits and inspections identify potential problems and produce preventative plans, safeguarding the organization's people and their working space.

Hiring an EHS manager:

Employers, especially in high-risk work environments, are responsible for ensuring a professional is in place to oversee the company's compliance with relevant regulations. EHS managers also focus on proactively implementing new practices that can further improve EHS performance at their organization.

Training:

Necessary training should be provided to every employee. This should include training in line with relevant regulations, such as hazard communication and electrical safety. Employers are responsible for ensuring that regular and appropriate training is provided.

EHS Compliance Regulations



Hopefully what's been made clear is that organizations must identify and conform to relevant regulations.

EHS managers must ensure that the organization is up-to-date with the latest regulations. Regulations are frequently updated and it is important for organizations to check them regularly so they can ensure consistent compliance.

As an organization serious about workplace safety, your company should measure compliance against the current regulations and quickly seek to fix any problem areas.



While it's important to meet all of the relevant EHS standards, the process is not simply just 'checking a box' – it also steadily improves the EHS performance of the organization.



EHS Compliance Checklist

This might sound like a lot to keep track of. Using a checklist is a great way to manage the process of measuring your EHS compliance.

Here is an example of an EHS compliance checklist:



PPE:

Ensure that your employees have the correct protective equipment to go about their jobs safely. It's also important that they know how to assess the quality of a piece of protective equipment before its used and the appropriate time at which a piece of protective equipment should be taken out of use.



Chemical Safety Program:

Ensure that workers are educated about the identities and hazards of the chemicals used in the workplace



Hazard communication:

Ensure you have a hazard communication plan in place across your organization, this should include what to do in the occurrence of slips, trips and falls.



Emergency plan:

Ensure you have a plan in place for emergencies, including fires, storms and workplace violence – with consideration to varying levels of seriousness.



Keep in mind that this checklist is only an example. Each organization will have local, state and federal regulations to comply with – as well as its own specific organizational requirements.

How Can Evotix Help?

Staying compliant means your EHS department must stay on top of recordkeeping and manage paperwork and forms relating to regulations.

Evotix has a paper-free, entirely mobile software solution that can support a proactive approach to safety.

Evotix's **EHS Compliance Software** aims to alleviate the stress and admin behind collating records and information. Instead of relying on manual processes, paper forms and spreadsheets, Evotix offers an alternative solution: manage all your safety data and activities in one integrated health and safety solution.

CONCLUSION

EHS compliance is a moral and legal obligation for all companies – not just an option. Yet, the path towards compliance is not linear nor straightforward.

The adoption of an EHS compliance software is a great option for simplifying the process and ensuring that everyone gets home safe and sound at the end of each day.

To learn more about automating your EHS compliance, check out this eBook that looks at the reasons necessary to invest in health and safety software.

5 Requirements for Exceptional Health and Safety Leadership | Evotix

Our software provides:



Tools to prompt vital regulatory activities



Easy creation and submission of reports to regulators (HSE/OSHA)



Easy communication across your organization



Access to reports and dashboards



Audit and inspection tools



Tracking of training



Tracking of reporting



Staff engagement tools





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Let's chat

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Our Evotix team is passionate about applying market leading technology to create safer, smarter workplaces, partnering with organizations that value people's safety, communities and the planet.

As safety professionals and long-term leaders in the Verdantix EHS Green Quadrant, our deep and practical insight addresses your evolving needs, helping you achieve your health, safety and sustainability goals.

Evotix: your all-around partner for the journey.

