The Complete Guide to EHSQ Success

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Do you want to ensure compliance with all your Environmental, Health, Safety, and Quality (EHSQ) regulatory and other requirements while saving time and effort? Easy to use and flexible EHSQ software solution is the short answer.

What is EHSQ? Why is it important? What are its benefits? And how to successfully implement it within your organization? Answers to all these questions will be developed in this paper.

Introduction

When talking about digitalization in the modern day, we think more globally. It has been proven that digitalization affects all processes in a company. It goes beyond transposition or migration from traditional tools such as paper forms, spreadsheets, and so on.

As a recent example, in February 2022, Abbott Laboratories, maker of popular baby formulas, closed a manufacturing facility in Sturgis, Michigan. Infant formula products were recalled when a federal investigation started after four babies taking the formula developed bacterial infections, two of whom died.

Only 4 baby formula companies control 90% of the market and only 2% of formula is imported in the United States. FDA regulations make it very challenging for new companies to enter the market; therefore, by closing Abbott Labs, massive baby formula shortages occurred. Aside from the root cause of this crisis, a flexible EHSQ software solution can help minimize such tragedies from occurring. EHSQ software can ensure the proper actions are taken by the correct people, and business can move forward.

It is in the best interest for companies to have an integrated EHSQ system to protect the environment and ensure health, quality, safety, and quality.

What is EHSQ?

Environment (E), health (H) and safety (S), EHS is an acronym for the set that studies and implements the practical aspects of protecting the environment and maintaining health and safety at occupation. In simple terms it is what organizations must do to make sure that their activities do not cause harm to anyone. Commonly, quality - quality assurance and quality control - is adjoined to form the company division known as EHSQ.

EHSQ encompasses laws that govern processes, professionals, and workplace behaviors. It effectively manages environmental, health, safety, and quality aspects to reduce incidents that impact the product quality and direct and indirect costs due to injuries. By automating the EHSQ processes using an integrated software system, you can minimize the effort to track, manage, report, and improve health and safety culture. It facilitates informed decision-making to achieve corporate goals and comply with regulatory standards

Both quality and EHS are evolving to keep up with a rapid product lifecycle. Merging these two

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systems into one solution is an effective way to get more visibility and functionality across an entire platform. An EHSQ integrates elements of both systems in a way that will maximize return on investment.

The ISO standards that govern the various initiatives have numerous common elements. The best of these solutions recognizes this intersection in functions and can create a single system that not only provides depth in the specialized functions but also is equipped with cross-functional purposes that serve the needs of both Quality and EHS.

Why is EHSQ Important?

A successfully implemented EHSQ system ensures safety at the workplace, prevents incidents, reduces chances of injuries, and minimizes environmental accidents, allowing you to meet your targets and objectives. An adequate EHSQ also ensures operational and cost efficiencies, along with resource optimization. It manages your hazards, events as well as accelerates product innovation, product compliance, and customer satisfaction which will ensure ROI is met.

3 Benefits of EHSQ

1. **Corporate Transparency:** EHSQ system allows visibility across the supply chain, improves organizational communication, and provides transparency and traceability.

2. **Reduce Costs and Improve ROI:** Keeping accident and injury rates low will increase your profit margin. With the right EHSQ

system, you can prevent accidents and injury costs at the workplace by managing hazards.

3. **Optimizing Performance:** EHSQ will control and reduce the risk to restrict the damage to profits, reputation, and existing relationships. Systems deliver continuous improvement (PDCA) to remain economically relevant in the future.

6 Steps to Follow

Understand your pain points and bottlenecks:

Make a list of your pain points by simply referring to safety managers, claim administrators, and key employees. Next, perform face-to-face interviews with anyone that has completed a form, a claim, a safety audit, a behavior observation, or other safety processes.

Questions to ask:

- How long does it take to complete this task?

- Is following-up a challenge?

- Does it delay closure?

- What are some frustration points?

  Take notes during this interview and allow yourself 30 days to build a list. By the end of this period, you should have at least 5 to 10 everyday safety processes identified

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based on the pain points your team provided. With this process and key take away, you have created a list of the top 10 key features that will improve your EHSQ.

4. **Identify the Cost and ROI :**

For each item on your list, estimate how much time a task will take to complete. Next, try to estimate the frequency. For example, if you need to do one behavior observation per day in each department and there are 4 departments, that's 4 observations daily. Assign a wage to each activity on the list.

When completed, calculate Time x Frequency x Wage to find out the true cost of what your company is spending to perform, review, and follow up on those activities. Don't forget to add the claim costs (injuries, lost time, damage, etc.)!

Studies have shown that if your overall claim expenditure is around $1 million., $200,000 can be avoided if the claim is closed quicker, which is proof of a successful EHSQ system implementation.

5. **Create a Budget:**

Before choosing the best technology solution, you should identify the budget your organization is willing to spend. Addressing this during your company's annual budgeting process can be very helpful, particularly when reviewing costs of platforms.

Match the features with your list of pain points:

While choosing the best technology solution, make sure specific items that cause you and your team the most frustration is addressed.

Draft a list of these pain points and make sure it matches with the features of the safety technology software you are considering.

6. **Make Sure to Have a Technical Person on the Team:**

It is okay to not have the experience and knowledge with the technical part of new technologies. In every company, there are subject matter experts who understand how to navigate newer technology, so make sure they are part of the team. This is a very important part of the "implementable and sustainable" stipulation.

7. **Demand Live Customer Support:**

Sign up for the after-sale customer support! Ensure you have the assistance of a support representative who will reach out and be part of your ongoing training process.

This is the most important part of the implementation and sustainable requirement. It is imperative to have a SME available during this process so you can have an expert to rely on when you hit a roadblock as they are impossible to avoid.

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You Should Know!

The implementation of EHSQ can only be effective when there is:

- Top Management commitment

- Sufficient allocation of resources

- Employee training on safety

- Proactive hazard identification

- Audit and continuous improvement of EHSQ processes

- Promotion of a positive safety culture lifestyle

- Compliance with relevant laws and regulations

- Open communication about EHSQ arrangements with employees and on-site workers

- Accountability and ownership

If you answer yes to any of the above, you should start considering EHS software.

Few tips to increase your EHSQ Productivity

Get Things Done the First Time Round

Be as efficient and thorough as possible from the start. If you are working on an audit or a report, be sure to complete it before switching to another task. It has been shown that productivity can decrease up to 50% when switching to another priority due to disruption and lack of focus.

Take More Pictures

Instead of writing long and uninteresting copy, which takes an inordinate amount of time, take pictures to help explain the situation to others. Pictures bring the information to life and help individuals understand easily what happened to find a convenient solution.

Delegate

Sure, you can't escape your legal responsibility, but you can increase productivity. In doing so, give teammates responsibility for their EHSQ work along with their priorities and objectives. Colleagues will appreciate your trust and confidence in them, and you will realize that you have automated a significant part of your safety management. This benefit will be rewarding as you can focus on your own priorities and allow the EHSQ management solution to collect information and visualize it for you.

Define Deadlines

Time management is key to increasing productivity. Lead yourself by setting a target time for each audit or inspection needed. Reserve time in your calendar and silence your phone to eliminate distractions. By doing this, you will learn how much time is needed when completing tasks, and you can start improving your time management skills. Let's face it,

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many of us are overworked and burnt out but the advantage of setting deadlines allows us to tackle projects efficiently.

Conclusion

In conclusion, quality is everyone's business! The same is true for the transformation of EHSQ practices.

It is very important to give as many team players access to the EHSQ system as it allows information to be centralized. Digitizing EHSQ is a key competitive advantage and solution to overcome the lack of human resources to reduce the workload and increase productivity.