WORKtoZERO
an nsc program

Technology Spotlight
EHS SOFTWARE

TECHNOLOGY SUMMARY

Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) software streamlines the tracking, reporting, and management of EHS activities, such as incident tracking, inspections, training, and compliance. Enterprise versions are installed and managed on-site, offering greater customization options but requiring more upfront investment and ongoing maintenance. Cloud-based software-as-a-service (SaaS) is easier to deploy, update, and scale, though it provides less control over data storage and access. To ensure that the technology meets the needs of the organization, the selected software should allow for future organizational growth and regulatory changes, provide a familiar user interface and supportive training resources, and provide relevant and actionable insights to support the safety goals of the organization.

EHS software can analyze historical safety data to identify root causes and help guide corrective and preventative actions in one streamlined system.

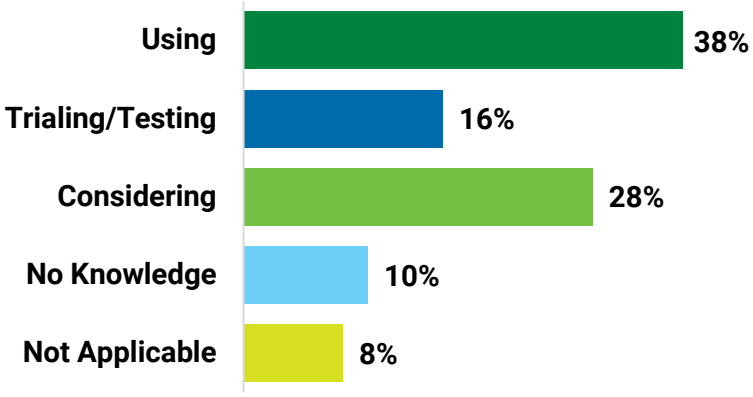
Software can streamline and standardize Permit to Work requests, allowing workers to autofill key details and submit them digitally for faster, more efficient review.

Predictive analytics can forecast hazardous conditions such as poor air quality, inclement weather, or extreme temperatures.

SAFETY TECHNOLOGY 2024 SURVEY RESULTS

According to an NSC survey of 500 employers and 1,000 employees in safety-sensitive industries, 38% of employers reported currently using risk management software in the workplace, while 44% said they are either testing or considering its use. The highest reported use of the technology came from employers in utilities, transportation and warehousing, and construction.

Use of EHS Software in the Workplace:



Top Industries Testing or Using:

- Utilities **(66%)**
- Transportation **(61%)**
- Construction **(55%)**

Voices from the Workplace:

"EHS software allows for a holistic view of the organization's risk landscape, helping management identify interconnected risks and their potential impact."—*Employer (Agriculture)*

"There is the potential to rely on the software exclusively so we become lax in maintaining our vigilance on these issues ourselves."—*Employer (Retail)*

"Risk management software helps us take a more informed and data-driven approach to assessing and managing a range of operational risks."—*Employer (Agriculture)*

"[EHS software] might not catch the high-risk, low-frequency events."—*Employer (Manufacturing)*

Benefits of EHS Software

- With in-depth reporting and recording capabilities, EHS software can support regulatory compliance and evaluate the risk of future workplace incidents.
- It can identify safety trends and ensure that proactive safety measures are taken.
- Mobile EHS platforms can be accessed via smartphones and tablets, making them ideal for field use and remote work environments.

Considerations for Adoption

- **Alignment:** The selected software should be applicable to organizational and industry needs.
- **Scalable:** Ensure that the software allows for future organizational growth or regulatory changes.
- **Ease of Use:** To maximize compliance, select a system with a user-friendly interface and supportive training resources.
- **Valuable Outputs:** Evaluate the software to ensure that the tracking, querying and reporting features provide outputs that support effective decision-making.

BEST PRACTICES

- **Ensure that the software aligns with your organizational goals and safety objectives**. It should address your industry-specific risk scenarios, support regulatory compliance, and track key safety performance indicators like incident rates, near misses, hazard reports, and corrective reports.
- **Redirect the time saved on administrative tasks into high-value safety efforts**, including engaging directly with workers, addressing other workplace safety concerns, or focusing on leading indicators of safety to drive proactive risk management.
- **Begin with small-scale pilots** to evaluate how the technology performs in specific use cases or environments, identify technical or operational challenges, gather worker feedback, and make adjustments before scaling up to reduce initial monetary and resource investments.

For more information, see our report Managing Risks with EHS Software and Mobile Applications. For additional resources and guidance on adopting safety technologies, explore the Work to Zero *Safety Innovation Journey*.

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Learn More:
nsc.org/WorktoZero

National Safety Council