

7 ways to count the cost of not having an effective EHS system

For many people, a new cloud based EHS solution feels like a cost that just cannot be afforded right now. After all, there are "other departments where we need to spend money, which have more pressing priorities at the moment" – right?

Wrong! There couldn't be a more important priority for any business than building a healthy, safe and productive workplace. Research shows how a small investment in an effective EHS Software solution can help you save money in the long run – be that in manpower and productivity, expenses, or worst-case scenario, heavy fines.

Here at Elmstone Systems, using experience gained from customers who have already seen the benefits of Mirashare, we've pulled together some questions to help you build your business case for change, and provide food for thought around your current practices.

1. How many hours a week do you and your team spend managing an incident?

Be honest with yourself about your current system. If it's pen and paper or spreadsheet at the moment, log how much time you spend completing onerous forms, filing reports then physically looking for them later when responding to requests for information. Wouldn't it be more productive and easier to process, if everything was electronically stored securely in one place?

2. What are you losing by not reporting near misses?

How many times do we hear that an incident could have been avoided if action had been taken before it happened? Not having the opportunity to learn from Near Miss reports and implement preventative actions before an incident happens almost certainly means you are losing productive time. Are your team spending more hours handling issues that could have been avoided, and how much does that cost in terms of interruption to your business?



3. How much time do you spend chasing people to make sure CAPAs are actioned?

Imagine an environment where actions are monitored electronically, observations shared, tasks reassigned, and workload assessed. It's not Utopia, but perhaps your current method of action tracking means you spend time chasing people, miss deadlines, fail to prioritise, overlook or even worse, lose important actions. A cloud based EHS system can help save time, increase control and improve productivity, especially when fully integrated.

4. How many times have you been caught out with the wrong risk assessment?

We all know how important up to date risk assessments are in terms of creating a healthy and safe working environment and protecting our people. If you're still using paper-based risk assessments, are they tightly version controlled and easily accessible? If not, you increase the risk of incurring avoidable costs or even injuries due to human error. Sometimes, due to lack of access to the risk assessment, or staff changeover for example, a superseded version of an RA is used, with potentially serious consequences. At worst it results in an accident which involves injury, legal costs and possibly compensation payments ... and still the original work is waiting to be done! The human cost of getting things wrong can be immense and far reaching. A cloud-based solution makes it possible to edit RAs across sites, buildings & departments, makes sure only the current version is available, and ensures the right people have read the right risk assessment – keeping your people safe. Savings around productivity and accuracy coupled with the added benefits of tighter control and improved safety process makes it a straightforward choice in our opinion.



5. How many times do you 'reinvent the wheel' on presentations, metrics & management reporting?

How much of your time is spent preparing figures for senior management from paper files, a selection of spreadsheets or word files? And how quickly does the data cease to be 'real time' once you have produced your report? Yesterday's news is just that! With an electronic health and safety solution, through the press of a button, you could produce meaningful charts, identify trends, and demonstrate departmental comparisons –all in real time – and all taking seconds to produce. How much time, every week, every month, even every year, would that give you back to focus on business-critical priorities?

6. If I counted the mileage I cover each year, as well as the cost...

If you had a pound for every mile you've covered travelling from site to site to obtain information, check audits, ensure you have the right risk assessments in the right place at the right time and chase people to make sure actions really have been carried out, you'd probably be a very rich person. It's exhausting just thinking about it! An integrated system is invaluable if you operate across sites. But it's not only the mileage that factors into this equation, but also lost time spent in traffic and on motorways as well as your carbon footprint!

7. Legal expenses – It'll never happen to us!

Costs of HR, legal expenses, compensation and fines should there be a serious event, can be considerable, not to mention lost time for injuries. If a serious event occurs that could potentially have been avoided because the event involved the use of an old risk assessment, or not implementing an important corrective action for example, the cost of investment in an EHS solution will probably pale into insignificance when compared with the potential penalties incurred.

We hope you found this article interesting, and that it has opened up a wider scope for potential savings than you initially realised. For more information about how to calculate potential savings, and to download our free, easy to use CBA Tool, click on the following link: www.mirashare.com/cost-benefit-analysis

**Watch out for next month's 'MiraView' article on
what to look for when selecting new health and safety software**

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