

Industry Intelligence Brief

EHS OUTLOOK IN MANUFACTURING



In Manufacturing, EHS is evolving from managing compliance to enabling operational excellence. The [2026 EHS 360 Benchmark Report](#) makes this clear.

Manufacturing organizations are asking more of EHS teams than ever before, and the role has expanded beyond compliance and incident response to include operational resilience, workforce engagement, risk intelligence, and strategic business performance.

At the same time, challenges remain. Regulatory complexity is increasing due to changes in regulations like OSHA's Hazard Communication (HazCom) Standard and Recordkeeping Standard. And even as EHS leaders in manufacturing embrace the greater role of EHS in their organizations, they're also navigating limited resources and data quality or access issues that keep them locked in a reactive safety management cycle.

INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT: MANUFACTURING AT A GLANCE

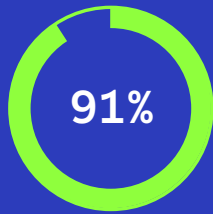
The chart below shows some defining characteristics of manufacturing today.

 HIGHLY REGULATED OPERATIONS	Safety, environmental and operational requirements across multiple jurisdictions, including chemical safety and injury and illness recordkeeping
 RAPID TRANSFORMATION	Robotics, AI, automation, connected equipment and advanced manufacturing technologies
 COMPLEX OPERATIONAL RISK	Heavy equipment, hazardous energy, chemicals, contractors, ergonomics and industrial hygiene
 DISTRIBUTED OPERATIONS	Multi-site facilities require standardized processes and consistent reporting
 GROWING DATA VOLUMES	More operational data than ever, creating new opportunities for predictive insight

According to NIOSH, manufacturing is undergoing rapid technological change as organizations adopt robotics, AI, sensors, automation, and advanced manufacturing processes. These innovations improve productivity, while creating new opportunities and new responsibilities for EHS leaders.

WHAT EHS LEADERS IN MANUFACTURING ARE SAYING

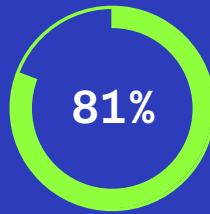
Manufacturing professionals remain highly committed to worker safety and are optimistic about the future, even as workloads and expectations continue to increase.



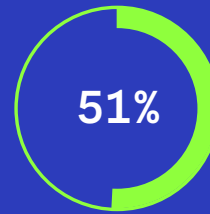
Expect to remain in EHS



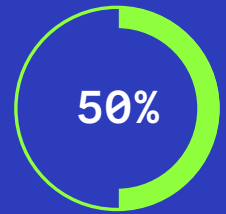
Feel prepared for today's responsibilities



Optimistic about the future



Entered EHS to protect workers



Say their jobs are becoming more stressful

EHS MANAGEMENT CHALLENGES IN MANUFACTURING

What keeps EHS leaders in Manufacturing up at night? According to the 2026 EHS 360 Benchmark Report, below are their main challenges.

Regulatory complexity



33%

Data & reporting burden



25%

Resource constraints



32%

Workforce engagement



24%

Technology change



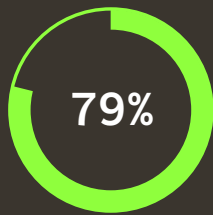
26%

EHS leaders in Manufacturing aren't struggling with one challenge. They're balancing regulatory pressure, workforce engagement, digital transformation, and growing volumes of operational data simultaneously.

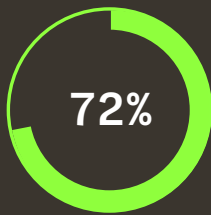


AI IS PART OF THE TOOLBOX

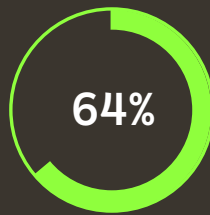
Not surprisingly, EHS professionals in Manufacturing are turning toward technology, and specifically artificial intelligence (AI), to address their challenges. Here's what EHS pros said about AI in the 2026 EHS 360 Benchmark Report.



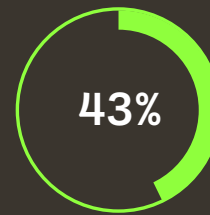
AI reduces administrative burden



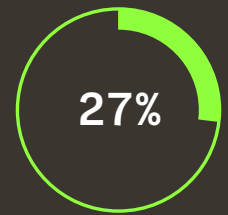
Trust AI-generated EHS insights



Already seeing ROI from AI



Already deploying AI at scale



AI is most important future skill

Manufacturers increasingly view AI as a productivity tool, not a replacement for EHS professionals. The focus is on improving reporting, data quality, decision making, and operational efficiency.

THE BOTTOM LINE

EHS in Manufacturing is changing. Organizations still need to ensure compliance, but today's leaders are increasingly expected to improve operational resilience, strengthen safety culture, support digital transformation, and deliver actionable business insight.

Organizations that connect people, processes, and data, and augment them with AI, will be better positioned to build safer workplaces, while improving operational performance.

SUCCESS STORY:

Over five years, Komatsu, one of the world's largest manufacturers of industrial construction and mining supplies, saw a **30% decrease in recordable injuries using VelocityEHS software.**



“

WE'VE BUILT A SAFETY PROGRAM FOCUSED ON CONSISTENCY AND USER PARTICIPATION, AND VELOCITYEHS IS CENTRAL TO THAT MISSION.

Chelsea Johnson | Komatsu
Global EHS Systems & Analytics Manager

TAP INTO SOLUTIONS MADE FOR THE FACTORY FLOOR

Being part of a global value chain means running lean and staying ahead of tight production schedules, strict regulations, and evolving risks.

With the VelocityEHS Accelerate Platform, leveraging VelocityAI, you can reduce risks in your manufacturing company, reaching your EHS goals faster and ensuring your people get home safely.

VelocityEHS offers expert-built software tools and AI-powered insights to get out ahead and stay there. Spend less time chasing paperwork and more time making smart decisions to reduce risk and make your workplace safer.

LET'S MAKE WORKPLACES SAFER, TOGETHER.

VelocityEHS is the global leader in EHS & Sustainability solutions, pioneering human-centered AI to make workplaces safer, faster. Protecting over 10 million workers worldwide, Accelerate®, the VelocityEHS Connected Platform, delivers AI-driven innovation across Safety, Ergonomics, Chemical Management, Operational Risk, Contractor Safety & Permit to Work, Environmental Compliance, and Sustainability.

[EXPLORE OUR PLATFORM](#)

[BOOK A LIVE DEMO](#)