

CQ Checklist

Is Your EHS Program Ready for AI?

A Practical AI Readiness Checklist for Safety Leaders

AI can help health, safety and environmental management teams move faster, identify patterns earlier, improve investigations, reduce administrative effort, and support more proactive risk management. But AI readiness is not simply about choosing the right technology.

*The real question is whether your **data, workflows, governance, people, and operating model** are ready to support it.*

Use this checklist to assess whether your EHS program has the right foundation in place.

EHS AI Readiness Checklist

#	Data and Information	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Is your EHS data accurate, complete, and consistently maintained?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are incidents, near misses, observations, inspections, audits, permits, corrective actions, risk assessments, and training records captured digitally?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Are common data definitions and taxonomies used across sites and business units?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Can you easily identify duplicate, incomplete, or inconsistent records?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Is historical EHS data available in a form that can be analyzed?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Do you have confidence in the quality of data AI would use?	☐	☐	☐

#	Connected Systems and Context	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Are your major EHS processes connected rather than managed as isolated workflows?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Can an incident be linked to related hazards, risks, inspections, corrective actions, training, and prior events?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Can EHS data connect with relevant information from Quality, Operations, Maintenance, HR, Supplier Management, or other functions where needed?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Can users see the history and context surrounding an event without searching across multiple systems?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Are you reducing reliance on spreadsheets, email, and manual handoffs?	☐	☐	☐

#	Workflow Maturity	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Are key EHS workflows standardized and consistently followed?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are roles, responsibilities, approvals, and escalation paths clearly defined?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Are corrective and preventive actions tracked through closure?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Can workflows automatically route tasks to the right people?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Are recurring delays, bottlenecks, and manual activities understood?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Have you identified the workflow steps where AI could create the most value?	☐	☐	☐

#	Governance and Control	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Are there clear rules governing who can access EHS data?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are changes, approvals, and decisions traceable through an audit trail?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Is sensitive or confidential information appropriately protected?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Do you have a process for reviewing and validating AI-generated outputs?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Are qualified EHS professionals accountable for final safety and compliance decisions?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Can you explain how an AI-supported recommendation or conclusion was reached?	☐	☐	☐
7.	Are AI use cases aligned with your organization's broader AI governance policies?	☐	☐	☐

#	Risk and Compliance	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Have you identified where AI could influence worker safety, environmental compliance, or regulatory obligations?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are higher-risk AI use cases subject to stronger review and approval controls?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Can you demonstrate that required human oversight remains in place?	☐	☐	☐

#	Risk and Compliance	Yes	No	N/A
4.	Are regulatory, legal, privacy, and cybersecurity requirements considered before deploying AI?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Can AI-assisted actions be documented and retained as part of the compliance record?	☐	☐	☐

#	People and Skills	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Do EHS leaders understand both the potential and limitations of AI?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Do users know when to trust, challenge, or escalate an AI-generated recommendation?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Have employees been trained on appropriate AI use within EHS workflows?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Is there clear ownership for AI-enabled EHS processes?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Are EHS, IT, Data, Security, and Compliance teams working together on AI adoption?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Is your organization prepared to redesign workflows rather than simply add AI to existing manual processes?	☐	☐	☐

#	AI Use Cases	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Have you identified specific EHS problems that AI should help solve?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Are your first use cases tied to measurable operational or safety outcomes?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Could AI help identify similar or recurring incidents?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Could AI accelerate investigations and root cause analysis?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Could AI improve incident or near-miss reporting?	☐	☐	☐
6.	Could AI surface emerging risk patterns across locations or operations?	☐	☐	☐
7.	Could AI summarize large volumes of EHS information for faster decision-making?	☐	☐	☐
8.	Have you prioritized use cases where the data and workflows are already mature enough to support AI?	☐	☐	☐

#	Measurement and Continuous Improvement	Yes	No	N/A
1.	Have you established a baseline before introducing AI?	☐	☐	☐
2.	Will you measure improvements in investigation time, reporting quality, closure time, recurrence, or administrative effort?	☐	☐	☐
3.	Can you track whether AI recommendations are useful and accurate?	☐	☐	☐
4.	Is there a process for capturing user feedback and improving AI-enabled workflows?	☐	☐	☐
5.	Will AI performance be reviewed regularly rather than treated as a one-time implementation?	☐	☐	☐

A Simple Readiness Test

If your organization is still struggling to answer where the data lives, whether it can be trusted, how workflows connect, and who owns the decision, AI may not be the first problem to solve.

The strongest foundation for AI in EHS is a connected, governed operating environment where **trusted data, standardized workflows, clear accountability, and human expertise** already work together.

That foundation gives AI the context it needs to become genuinely useful, not simply another layer of technology.

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