

09 ways a  
CMMS  
makes your  
facility safer

In 2014, 4,821 workers were killed on the job in the US. That's just over 13 deaths per day.

According to an [OSHA factsheet published in 2015](#), the 10 most frequently cited OSHA violations from October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2015 were:

1. Fall protection
2. Hazard communication standard
3. Scaffolding
4. Respiratory protection
5. Control of hazardous energy lockout/tagout
6. Powered industrial trucks
7. Ladders
8. Electrical, wiring methods, components and equipment
9. Machinery and machine guarding
10. Electrical systems design, general requirements

Safety is a very present part of the job for anyone who works in construction, manufacturing or any related field. But outside of overarching policies and procedures, what can you do in your facility to make sure your people and your equipment are kept safe?

### **First, the basics. What is OSHA?**

**OSHA** is the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the agency that controls the health and safety of American workers. The organization has introduced new regulations, written standards, established whistleblower protection programs, and published safety limits for many industries.

But while OSHA sets the standards, it's up to you to meet them.

# 9 ways a CMMS makes your facility safer

## 1. Reduce breakdown maintenance

Breakdown maintenance is usually poorly documented, with the technician using his/her expertise to solve the issue rather than working from guides, procedures or checklists. Sometimes technicians even take additional risks when rushing to get a machine back up and running.

A CMMS can reduce the amount of time spent on breakdown maintenance by scheduling and tracking maintenance and safety-related information, and triggering important checks on a predefined schedule. By planning system maintenance and inspections, organizations can identify small issues before they turn into something more serious.

## 2. Classify and track safety issues

By classifying repairs in the CMMS as they happen, you can run reports to identify recurring problems and take proactive measures to mitigate issues in the future. You can also chart safety-related work orders over time to spot trends in trouble systems, areas or individuals, and take steps like updating safety procedures, conducting employee safety training, and prioritizing safety-related issues in the system.

### **3. Establish checklists**

We can't say it enough: When you standardize processes, quality and reliability increases, while variation and cost decrease. Checklists are essential for standardization, since they help make sure everyone does the same job the same way, every time.

Most CMMS software lets you add standardized checklists to work orders and planned maintenance. Some CMMS applications take this one step further by giving organizations the ability to create visual operating procedures for accurate task completion.

### **4. Integrate safety pictures and videos**

CMMS applications let you upload important documentation and make it available to technicians in the field. This is especially relevant when safety checks vary from system to system.

### **5. Create paper trails**

Your first line of defense against the fallout if an incident occurs is an accurate paper trail showing that every preventive measure was taken. Most CMMS applications include audit trails, which means the system holds a digital record of every operation performed during a given time period. Maintaining a complete audit trail is important to conform to industry standards and regulations, and it makes pulling data for audits easy.

### **6. Track certifications**

Employees have a much greater chance of getting injured performing a job they are not trained for. But keeping track of employee certifications and training can be an administrative nightmare unless you have the right systems in place. Fortunately, many CMMS applications come with certification trackers that help maintenance managers ensure everyone on site has up-to-date training. The software can send training and recertification reminders to the employee and their supervisor before the accreditation expires and generate certification reports when required for safety meetings or audits.

## **7. Manage material safety data sheets (MSDS)**

Attaching MSDS to dangerous chemicals in your CMMS gives your technicians instant access to crucial safety information through their CMMS. For example, they can check the correct PPE, protective clothing or respirators for handling the chemical, or the first aid measures in the event something should go wrong.

## **8. Carry out safety inspections**

Inspection rounds are conducted to ensure health and safety equipment is available and fully functional, and identify issues that could develop into major safety problems down the line. They are usually made up of simple inspections or checks on multiple assets. In many cases, the inspection officer will simply walk through the facility to check that all safety equipment is in full working condition.

The multi-asset work order functionality of your CMMS can be used to let officers sign off on the safety inspections in real-time in the field with minimal effort.

## **9. Connect your machines to your CMMS**

Use the built-in API to connect your machines directly to your CMMS so that safety-related alarms, such as gas warnings, temperature peaks, or high voltage spikes, trigger notifications in real time.

# Just one more thing...

If you don't have a CMMS yet but are ready to start looking for one, then check out our other resources aimed at helping you find the ideal software for your business:

## Other resources:

- > [Choosing a CMMS: A short guide](#)
- > [Business case presentation](#)