



# A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

MANUFACTURING & SUPPLY CHAIN

# Introduction

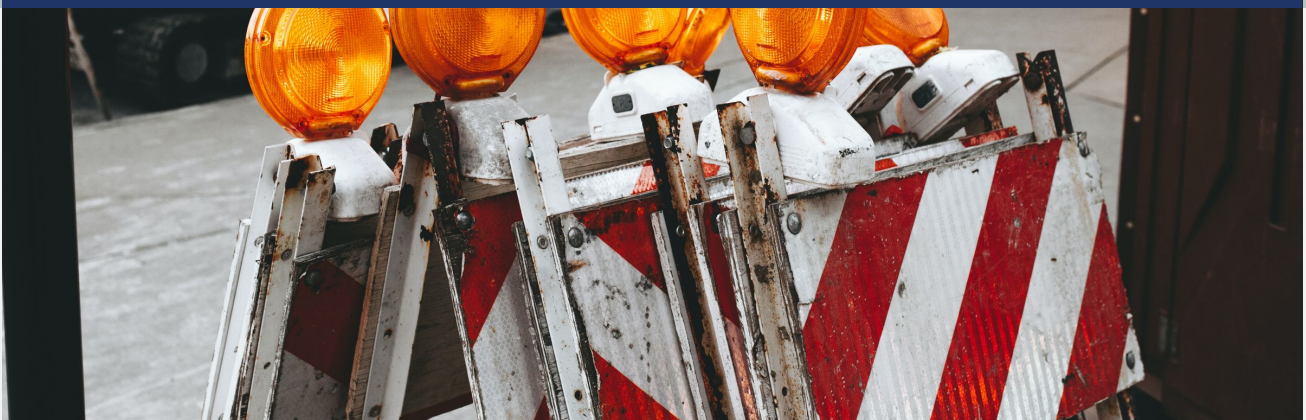
Health and Safety in manufacturing refers to the measures and policies that are put in place to protect the health and well-being of workers in the manufacturing industry.

This includes ensuring that workers are protected from hazards such as machinery, chemicals, and other hazardous materials, as well as protecting them from injury and illness caused by working conditions.

Some key areas of focus in manufacturing health and safety include:

**1. Machine safety:** This involves ensuring that machinery is properly maintained, adequately guarded, and operated in a safe manner. This may include measures such as training workers on how to safely operate machinery, installing guards and barriers to protect workers from moving parts, and regularly inspecting and maintaining equipment.

**2. Chemical safety:** Many manufacturing processes involve the use of hazardous chemicals, which can pose a risk to workers' health if they are not handled properly. Employers must ensure that workers are trained on the proper handling and storage of chemicals, and that appropriate protective equipment is provided and used.



**3. Ergonomics:** Manufacturing work can involve repetitive tasks and awkward postures, which can lead to musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) such as carpal tunnel syndrome and lower back pain. Employers must take steps to reduce the risk of MSDs by implementing ergonomic interventions such as adjusting workstations, providing tools that are easier to grip and handle, and rotating workers between tasks.

**4. Fire and emergency preparedness:** Employers must have plans in place to evacuate workers in the event of a fire or other emergency, and ensure that workers are trained on how to follow these plans. This may include installing fire suppression systems, marking emergency exits, and conducting regular fire drills.

Overall, the goal of health and safety in manufacturing is to create a safe and healthy work environment for workers, and to prevent accidents, injuries, and illnesses. This involves not only following regulations and guidelines, but also continuously assessing and addressing potential hazards in the workplace.



# 4 WAYS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY IN MANUFACTURING

**1**

## **Conduct regular safety training and drills**

Regular safety training can help employees understand the importance of safety and how to identify and mitigate risks in the workplace.

Drills can also help employees practice responding to emergencies, such as fires or chemical spills.

**2**

## **Implement a hazard identification and risk assessment program**

Identifying hazards and assessing the risks they pose is an essential step in creating a safe work environment.

By implementing a hazard identification and risk assessment program, manufacturers can identify potential hazards and take steps to control or eliminate them.

**3**

## **Establish safe work procedures**

Clearly defined safe work procedures can help workers understand the steps they need to take to perform their tasks safely.

These procedures should be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure that they remain current and effective.

**4**

## **Conduct regular inspections**

Regular inspections of the workplace can help identify potential hazards and ensure that safety protocols are being followed.

These inspections should be conducted by trained personnel and should include checks of equipment, facilities, and work practices.

# 4 WAYS TO IMPROVE HEALTH AND SAFETY TRAINING

**1**

## Ensure compliance-driven, mandatory training is completed

Ensuring that all employees receive health and safety training can help ensure that they are aware of the risks associated with their job tasks and how to mitigate those risks.

By tracking and assessing mandatory training, you can help ensure that all employees are knowledgeable about safety protocols, whilst avoiding non-compliance issues.

**2**

## Use a variety of training methods

Different employees may respond better to different training methods. Consider using a combination of methods, such as in-person training, online training, and hands-on demonstrations, to reach a wider range of learners.

Consider using multi-media such as video learning to support employees where language barriers are an issue.

**3**

## Use real-life examples

Using real-life examples in training can help employees better understand the importance of safety and how to apply safety protocols in the workplace.

Training materials should be of a high standard and reflect real-work situations that an employee may find themselves in.

**4**

## Offer ongoing training

Health and safety protocols can change over time, so it's important to offer ongoing training to ensure that employees are up-to-date on the latest guidelines.

Consider offering regular refresher courses or incorporating safety training into other training programs.

# TECHNOLOGY TRENDS FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY

There are several technology trends in the field of health and safety that are worth noting:

- **Wearable technology:** Wearable devices, such as smartwatches and fitness trackers, can help workers monitor their health and safety. For example, some devices can track a worker's heart rate and alert them if it becomes too high, while others can detect falls or accidents and send an alert to a supervisor.
- **Internet of Things (IoT):** The IoT refers to the interconnected network of devices that can collect and exchange data. In the field of health and safety, IoT devices can be used to monitor conditions in the workplace, such as temperature, humidity, and air quality, and alert workers to potential hazards.
- **Artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning:** AI and machine learning can be used to analyse data from IoT devices and other sources to identify patterns and trends that could indicate potential safety issues. For example, AI can be used to predict when equipment is likely to fail, allowing workers to repair or replace it before an accident occurs.
- **Virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR):** VR and AR can be used to train workers in a safe, simulated environment. For example, VR can be used to simulate hazardous situations, such as chemical spills, allowing workers to practice responding to these events without being exposed to actual risks.
- **Mobile and Tablet apps:** Mobile and Tablet apps can be used to provide workers with access to safety information and resources while on the job. For example, an app could provide workers with access to safety procedures, hazard identification guidelines, and emergency response plans.



# Conclusion

Health and safety are of critical importance in the manufacturing industry. Manufacturing environments can present a wide range of hazards, including machinery, hazardous materials, and repetitive tasks, which can all pose risks to the health and safety of workers.

By prioritizing health and safety, manufacturers can help reduce the risk of accidents, injuries, and illnesses, which can lead to improved productivity, reduced costs, and a better overall work environment.

Discover how Nvolve can help your Health and Safety team reduce accident and compliance risk, improve employee well-being and create a much safer place of work. Learn more at [www.nvolvegroup.com](http://www.nvolvegroup.com)

