HOW GENSUITE IH SOFTWARE ENHANCES THE VITALITY OF INDUSTRIAL HYGIENE PROFESSIONALS & PROGRAMS

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ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES

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GENSUITE**®

Intro

The chief goal of an occupational health and safety program in a facility is to manage and prevent occupational injury and illness. Industrial hygienists are veritable occupational health & safety superheroes, standing alert to anticipate, recognize and prevent risks while controlling environmental factors arising in or from the workplace. The industrial hygienist's role is vital to help prevent sickness, impaired health and wellbeing, or significant discomfort among workers. Benchmark Gensuite can help with tools and resources designed for Industrial Hygiene professionals like you.

This white paper, How Benchmark Gensuite IH Software Enhances the Vitality of Industrial Hygiene Professionals & Programs, will walk you through evaluating workplace hazards, addressing risks and managing your occupational health & safety program efficiently and effectively by deploying the right tools.
With more than 10,000 Industrial Hygiene assessments successfully logged into our system across 30 subscribing companies in diverse industries, you can trust Gensuite for your Industrial Hygiene needs.
Intro

Getting Started

Before diving into the many activities that comprise your Industrial Hygiene program, it's important to establish your program expectations and a strategy for action. By using Benchmark Gensuite, you have access to a single digitized platform that manages and maintains all necessary Industrial Hygiene activities, including establishing a standardized assessment process across all site operations.

To set a standardized assessment process, begin by asking yourself the following: What are you trying to accomplish? Set program goals. Who will be affected by your program? Identify your key stakeholders. What regulations must you comply with? Find out what your legal obligations are. Will your program be specific to a certain location? Establish your boundaries.

The Benchmark Gensuite team can work with you to deploy our cloud-based best in class Industrial Hygiene software solution to establish the following components of your Industrial Hygiene program…

- Identify tasks
- Assess risks
- Prioritize actions
- Identify controls
- Implement controls & train employees
- Assess performance
- Investigate issues (including potential)
- Maintain data & reports

Next, you will need to identify what potential hazards are applicable in your case. There are many different factors that could potentially affect your workers, such as:

- Air Contaminants
- Biological Exposure
- Chemicals
- Dusts
- Fumes
- Particles that affect respiratory health
- Work in extreme heat & cold environments
- Work in high or low-pressure environments
- Noise

And that's just to name a few. To help identify potential hazards, Gensuite offers in-depth monitoring record search options for hazardous elements and outputs monitoring results for specific elements and employee exposures.

Once you understand the stressors that affect your workplace environment, and work to establish a standardized process across all site jobs, operations and worker activities, it's time to develop a plan for action.

Implementing Controls

An effective Industrial Hygiene management program relies on recognizing that the most effective methods for reducing exposure to occupational hazards are elimination or substitution; with engineering, work practice and administrative controls to mitigate the residual risk.

Engineering controls minimize employee exposure by either reducing or removing the hazard at the source or isolating the worker from the hazard. Engineering controls include eliminating toxic chemicals and substituting non-toxic chemicals, enclosing work processes or confining work operations, and the installation of general and local ventilation systems.

Work practice controls alter the manner in which a task is performed. Some fundamental and easily implemented work practice controls include (1) changing existing work practices to follow proper procedures that minimize exposures while operating production and control equipment; (2) inspecting and maintaining process and control equipment on a regular basis; (3) implementing good housekeeping procedures; (4) providing good supervision; and (5) mandating that eating, drinking, smoking, chewing tobacco or gum, and applying cosmetics in regulated areas be prohibited. Administrative controls include controlling employees' exposure by scheduling production and tasks, or both, in ways that minimize exposure levels. For example, the employer might schedule operations with the highest exposure potential during periods when the fewest employees are present.

When effective work practices or engineering controls are not feasible or while such controls are being instituted, appropriate personal protective equipment must be used. Examples of personal protective equipment (PPE) are gloves, safety goggles, helmets, safety shoes, protective clothing, and respirators. To be effective, personal protective equipment must be individually selected, properly fitted and periodically refitted; conscientiously and properly worn; regularly maintained; and replaced, as necessary.

https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/industrial_hygiene/industrial_hygiene.pdf

Gensuite Industrial Hygiene software helps to structure your plan for implementing these controls as part of your Industrial Hygiene risk management program. In addition, Gensuite provides a standardized platform for identifying and tracking specific medical surveillance and training needs that may be triggered for employees required to wear PPE as part of the control plan.

Effectively Identifying Hazards & Creating a Plan for Action

Once you understand your controls, it is time to conduct a worksite assessment. You will need to measure and identify exposures and potential dangers, which includes inspecting, researching and analyzing chemicals and physical hazards that could expose workers to risks. It's important to regularly screen potential exposures against published criteria of exposure limits.

Once you identify risks in your work environment, you should immediately assign corrective and preventative action and track accordingly to closure. At this point, it is also important to communicate potential exposures and notify your employees of identified hazards.

These Industrial Hygiene activities can easily be completed using Gensuite.

Assessments

Document qualitative Industrial Hygiene demographic surveys and exposure / control info

Prioritize risks for follow-up and monitoring

Leverage integrated solutions such as risk assessments, statistical analysis, and regulatory notifications (COSHH)

Monitoring

Catalog and assess site projects & activities for monitoring follow up

Conduct monitoring & sampling by employee, work area or in bulk

Track re-monitoring requirements and frequency

Log laboratory monitoring data and conduct quantitative risk assessments easily using Gensuite Excel tools

Reporting & Analysis

Compare Industrial Hygiene monitoring data and complete detailed statistical analysis with Gensuite's IH Analyzer

Conduct statistical analysis of overexposure likelihood via comprehensive Gensuite Analytics

Search & analyze Industrial Hygiene data and compare against exposure limits

Benchmark Gensuite can also track medical surveillance for employees to monitor worker health. And, when used with Benchamrk Gensuite Training Tracker, enables training compliance by driving employee engagement through regulatory and best practice training through training assignments, session scheduling, completion/qualification tracking and reporting.

Managing Your Occupational Health & Safety Industrial Hygiene Program

When it comes to managing your occupational health & safety program, your job can be made easier if equipped with the right tool. Effective Industrial Hygiene management requires recording and maintaining consistent and complete worksite data. Using outdated methods, such as Excel spreadsheets or pen and paper methods, present the potential for loss and inaccurate data, as well as increases the amount of day-to-day data management necessary.

As an example, one recent standard that Industrial Hygiene software helps achieve compliance with is the Occupational Safety & Health (OSHA) respirable crystalline silica rule. The rule, which went into effect in 2016, limits exposure to an 8-hour time-weighted average of 50 micrograms of respirable crystalline silica per cubic meter. Prior to the standard being enforced, workers in the construction industry have been exposed to potentially life-threatening amounts—causing silica-related diseases such as silicotuberculosis and lung cancer.
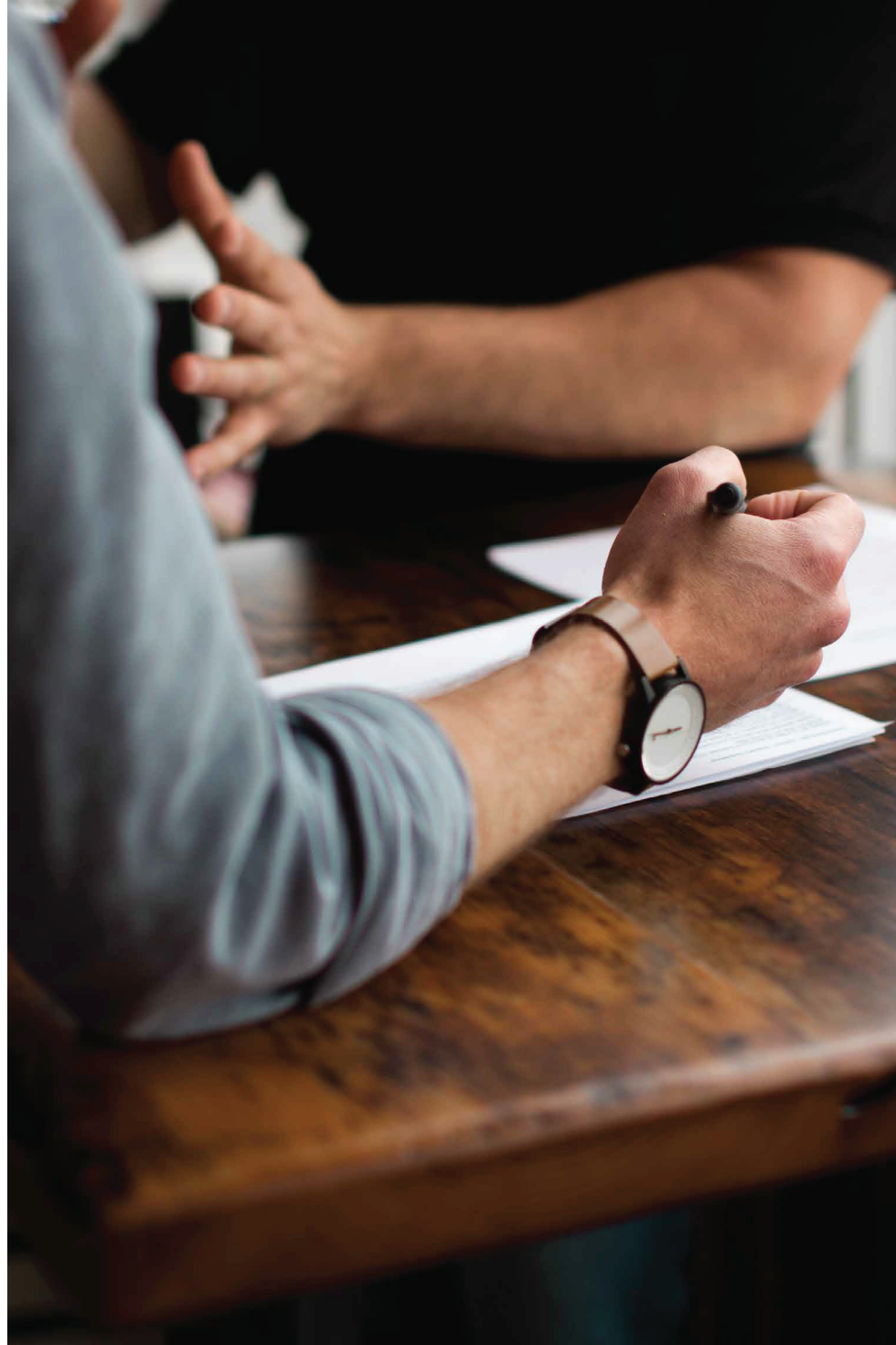
Investing in an Industrial Hygiene software solution not only provides a consistent and accurate Industrial Hygiene management solution, it also helps to protect workers from harm, such as silica exposure. By using Industrial Hygiene management software like Gensuite, you can manage and maintain all necessary Industrial Hygiene activities, including establishing a standardized assessment process, documenting qualitative demographic surveys and exposure/control information, easily logging monitoring data, streamlining data entry, managing employee medical surveillance and training and assigning and tracking corrective actions. Gensuite's Industrial Hygiene solution also includes integrated analytics to evaluate and enable continuous improvement over time, can characterize new hazards related to change, and has exclusive features such as multilingual and offline mobile capabilities to be used anywhere and at any time.

Industrial Hygiene Consulting Services

For additional guidance on developing your Industrial Hygiene program, consider partnering with an Industrial Hygiene consulting services company. Industrial Hygiene consultants offer subject matter expertise and will guide you through Industrial Hygiene process development. When seeking consulting services, you should look for a company that is familiar with region-specific needs, culture and Industrial Hygiene requirements applicable to your business. Referencing an Industrial Hygiene consultant and deploying Gensuite's comprehensive solution is the best way to approach establishing your Industrial Hygiene processes and program. See our resource section at the end of this white paper to discover an Industrial Hygiene service consultant that's right for you.

When it comes to Industrial Hygiene, the risk of ineffective management is too great. You can't afford to use a system that doesn't do its job. With the amount of data that you monitor and report, using an Excel spreadsheet or pen and paper methods will not do the job efficiently or effectively. In order to maintain data, you must deploy a data-driven compliance and management software system, a single platform to manage all of your Industrial Hygiene activities. Deploying Industrial Hygiene software is the best way to anticipate, evaluate & manage occupational health & safety risks, enabling you to prioritize the health and safety of your employees and workplace environment.

Online Resources:

https://www.aiha.org/government-affairs/PositionStatements/whitepaper01_SweatshopsGlobalEconomy.pdf
https://www.osha.gov/dte/library/industrial_hygiene/industrial_hygiene.pdf
https://www.ehstoday.com/industrial_hygiene/ehs_imp_38050

Industrial Hygiene Consulting Services:

International Safety Systems Inc. (ISS)   http://www.issehs.com/