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EHS Management & Supply Chain Responsibility: A Powerful Pair

There are a number of synergistic relationships between different departments or programs in any business, building off of the success of each other to drive improvement and growth. In the network of business systems, EHS – environmental health and safety – is sadly one of the more commonly overlooked services. Given the broad and varied nature of work that EHS managers and staff are in charge of, they can easily be stretched thin; it's not easy to oversee the development and implementation of all EHS programs while ensuring compliance with all environmental standards and regulations, after all!

Unfortunately, this makes it common for EHS responsibilities to be an afterthought – shuffled off to a third-party provider or written off as a mere business expense rather than a useful asset in strategy. Procurement teams also fall victim to a similar fate, being isolated within the company with limited interaction on other levels of management. But, like EHS, procurement is a crucial part of a business's success – who else will locate and secure raw materials, goods, and services at acceptable costs and quality levels?

Needless to say, if either of these systems are overly neglected or otherwise are allowed to fail, it can spell disaster for a company, both in terms of the bottom line and its reputation. It's increasingly common for EHS managers (and alternately supply chain teams) to be responsible for the development and maintenance of a company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program. Dedicating resources to a solid CSR program demonstrates a business's acceptance of practices that go beyond simple profits; showing interest in the ethics and sustainability of business choices through CSR offers a myriad of benefits for companies of all sizes.

Integration between EHS and supply chain efforts within a business's systems can help improve organizational resilience and offers extra assurance to leadership that both of these critical programs are functioning correctly. One method of helping to promote collaborating and growth between the two may be EHS certification integrated with ISO certification such as ISO 9001; leverage the risk assessment process offered by certification to identify both risks and potential opportunities for further growth. A proven EHS process in tandem with both supply chain programs and daily operations is sure to raise the bar for performance throughout a company's entire network.

