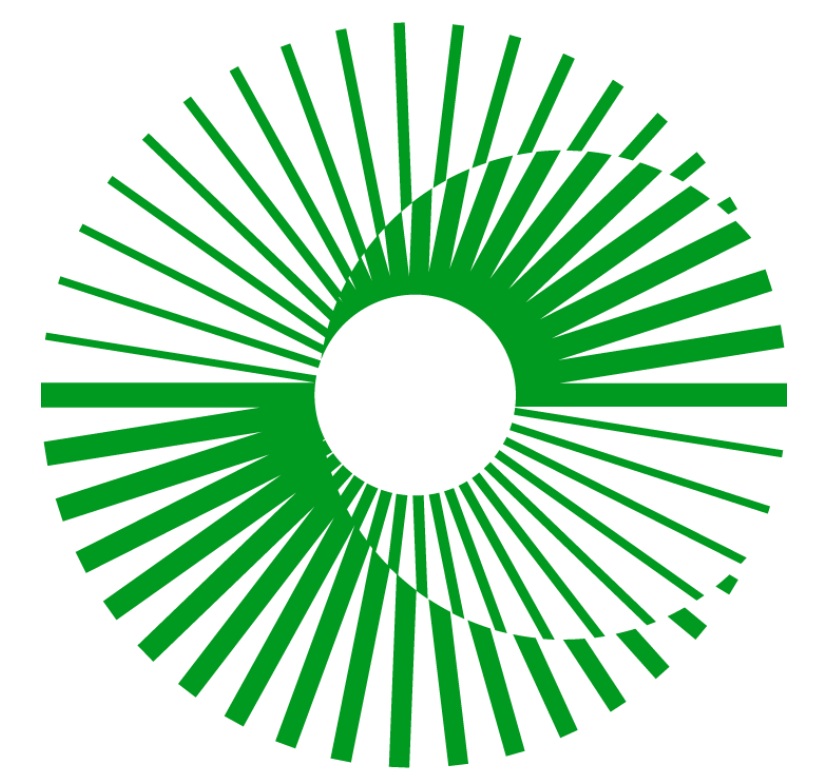


PO480

A new era of Risk Management using re-imagined EHS Audit Approaches



ERM

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EHS audits must shift from compliance checks to strategic, risk-based tools that drive performance, integrate insights into decision-making, and support sustainability goals.

SUMMARY

Traditionally viewed as a compliance checkpoint, EHS audits are now being reimagined as catalysts for performance improvement, risk mitigation, and business value creation.

However, **challenges** persist across sectors:

- audits often lack integration with strategic decision-making,
- root cause analysis is inconsistently applied,
- limited cross-functional engagement; and
- digital tools are underutilized.

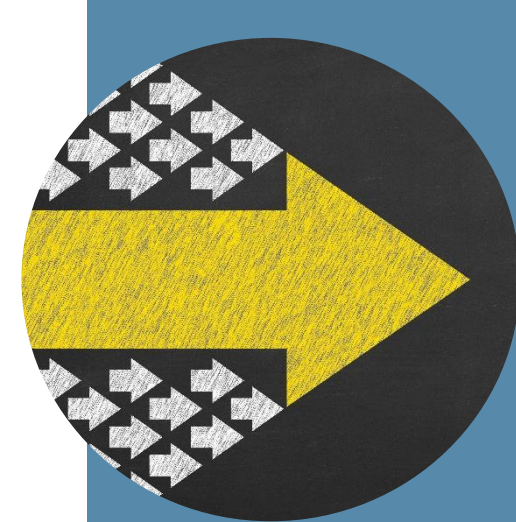
METHODOLOGY

Qualitative and quantitative data were analysed to identify trends, challenges, and best practices in EHS auditing for renewables and other key sectors.

Structured interviews, survey analytics, and field observations informed the conclusions.



HOW EHS AUDITS CAN DRIVE BUSINESS VALUE



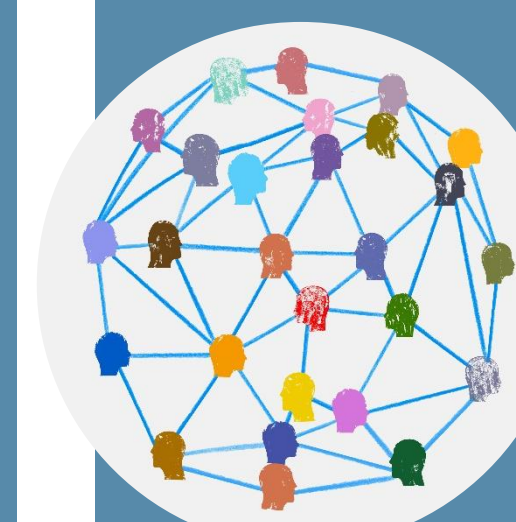
From Gaps to Gains - Audits as Performance Drivers

Modern audits turn compliance checks into actionable insights that reduce risk, boost efficiency, and strengthen strategic decision-making.



Smarter Data Management, Smarter Decisions

Smart data turns audits into strategic advantage-spotting patterns, predicting risks, and guiding actions.



Building Resilience through Root Cause Focus to tackle Systemic Issues

Shift from quick fixes to true root-cause thinking, building lasting resilience and eliminating repeat issues.



Coaching not Policing - a Culture Shift, Putting People First

The most effective audits empower people - shifting from judgement to learning and shared accountability

CALL FOR MORE ROBUST AUDIT PROGRAMMES IN THE RENEWABLE SECTOR

Renewables organizations are investing heavily in health and safety, with a projected **51% increase over the next three years**—outpacing other sectors.

It is time to critically review and reimagine your EHS audit programme for strategic impact:

- Shift to risk-aligned audits that target what matters most
- Go beyond surface findings to address root causes and systemic issues
- Use digital tools and especially AI to unlock deeper insights and consistency
- Foster a coaching-based audit culture that drives trust, ownership, engagement across the business and continuous improvement
- Address contractor safety, engagement and compliance through audit design.



SOURCES

- (1) [ERM's 2024 Global Health & Safety Survey](#) with 256 EHS leaders across sectors
- (2) [From Compliance to Catalyst: How EHS Audits Must Drive Business Value](#) and follow-up roundtable discussions
- (3) [Beyond Compliance: Reimagining EHS audits for strategic impact](#)
- (4) Case Study of an EHS gap assessment regarding EHS compliance and alignment with ISO 45001 requirements of an onshore wind park repowering site in Germany

