



Sarooj Construction

Need

Sarooj realized its need of software to track onsite health and safety statistics – it looked for a digitized HSE management system that drives enterprise-wide HSE initiatives and provides visibility to safety metrics

Challenges

The professionals found it difficult to standardize their health and safety processes and maintain data traceability, especially for trainings, across their sites

Benefit

An automated solution exercised across their facilities helped them maintain the track and visibility over site activities and processes

Established in 1976 in Oman, Sarooj Construction Company (SCC) has an established track-record in the construction arena in the real-estate sector, various engineering fields and oil industries. Since their restructure in 2006, it has a leading reputation in Earthworks, Geo-technical, marine, infrastructure, airports, roads, buildings, electrical & mechanical works and site temporary facilities to the Oil & Gas and other construction industries in Oman.

The ongoing 30+ projects and site activities in Oman were geographically distributed – be it managing any onsite task, work was initially overseen through paper-based & excel driven tracking systems. Over-the-time, as Sarooj expanded, it became apparent for their HSE professionals to opt for a standardized digital supervision to ensure company-wide compliance for all their complex issues.

Training and inspection data needed to be readily accessible in a common format to all the users from the distributed facilities and simultaneously, be visible from a corporate level.

Safe operations for business continuity and overall success

Construction and infrastructure processes fall within an extensive range of laws and guidelines to protect workers, contractors and the general public – simply because the environment is subject to cumulative hazards. Working on a LNG facility differs from concrete foundation works and underground piping. Unlike most workplaces which are static, infrastructure sites face changes almost all the time, plus exposure to weather uncertainties make incident-related injuries more likely.

With engineering and construction industry at the cusp of new era, SCC was in a search of new applications and tools that could change how they design, plan and execute projects, especially in terms of safety. Their every single project had business heads, works managers, project managers, engineers, team members, contractors and their workers who were responsible to facilitate safety during construction and operations. Due to the specialized competencies of various professionals and contractors involved, OSH elements are often found contradictory, misaligned or out of scope as approaches differ, and they might result in inefficiencies. They further give rise to incidents and near-misses.

Solution

- ☞ Streamlined data collection
- ☞ Data logging on-the-go (Mobile app)
- ☞ Improved reporting efficiency
- ☞ Critical information tracking
- ☞ Data collection consistency
- ☞ Improved operational performance
- ☞ Subject Matter Expert generating Knowledge base

For the top management, vigilance over operations was tough as processes weren't streamlined – and they have to quantify and track ongoing risks in order to make better decisions.

One main issue that the management faced was the training record tracking – whilst trained workers and professionals were deployed across various sites to execute work, maintaining training data, their validity and expiry dates on a case-by-case basis was difficult to record. Though it was maintained through excel driven systems at corporate level only, data retrieval was a big challenge in time of need for individual sites.

The heavy vehicle and equipment usage was an additional concern at such a workplace – equipment delivery, their scheduled inspections and its utility interconnect are major critical paths. Easy information retrieval holds prime importance at such geographical locations and manual data collection dependencies lack those.

SCC started evaluating for options that emphasized on the incorporation of software tools for digital collaboration and focused on eliminating problems that dogged their construction sites for long. That comprised of difficulties in compiling and sharing project information.

In April 2019, during their construction phases, SCC approached ASK-EHS to maintain high standards of safety and efficiency in their industrial environment. An HSE management software was proposed, which, with a plethora of metrics could capture events and actions on-site. It encapsulates the use of end-to-end business requirements and processes that achieve continuous improvement in HSE performance.

Prioritizing monitoring methods for risk reduction in health and safety

After gathering requirements, the project was initiated in the first week of July 2019, where SCC had a single point-of-contact for project initiation, revision and completion. The essential capabilities that SCC looked into, within the HSE management software were –

- Incident and near-miss reporting to maintain the track of on-site incidents and near-misses
- Training management to maintain the record of the individuals trained
- Corrective and Prevention Action (CAPA) to monitor and review root causes, corrective actions taken and their verifications
- Site and equipment inspection, along with their equipment IDs for ensuring quality output throughout
- Safety portal and toolbox talks to provide employees a platform to express and record unsafe acts, risks and hazards if any – across the site. Allows organizations to engage with their employees for any safety updates

"With the HSE software at hand, we are able to assign responsibilities to Performing Authority individuals and actually witness and review their performance towards HSE Compliance - helping us gather further information such as trend analysis, safety culture, personal behavior, trends of unsafe conditions and much more."

- Record unsafe acts and onsite non-compliances
- HSE Knowledge base – articles along with rich media written by SCC subject matter experts incorporating global standards, local policies and company guidelines. Easily accessible and a ready reference for ground level supervisors and contractors to adopt best practices. To manage regular tasks on SCC sites that witnesses more than 4000 employees, a centralized HSE system was ideal to manage their structures and facilities of all complexities. Integrated HSE management software that covers event logging, managing change and reporting helps transform paper-based or unstructured information into a smart digital asset ensuring safe, efficient operations throughout the lifecycle.

Their transition to an automated solution was relatively painless – SCC had a team of professionals who expressed interest in the implementation of the software and were keenly involved. They even provided inputs for their software, in terms of user-friendliness and operability. From August till September end, each module was delivered for their couple of pilot projects implementation step-by-step. Through online trainings, their complications in shifting to a new process were identified, evaluated and communicated in the most simplified ways. By establishing a good coordination with ASK-EHS software team, they were able to realize the benefits of HSE platform in an accelerated time-frame.

HSE software as pivotal element of inspiring cohesion at all levels

Along with the software, a mobile app as a tool was a perfect fit – since it eased their reporting mechanisms and inspections, enhanced data transfer for CAPA approvals and incident reporting. After accommodating their needs, the app and the modules went live for all ongoing projects in September.

The transition to HSE management software that emphasized on health and safety made SCC the first organization in Oman to opt for a digitized solution that focused on safety activity tracking. With this approach, they have set up an example for best industry safety practices within their reach.

Such sustainable business practices embrace the role of technology and attain insight within their operations. A strong culture that supports safety is vital in ensuring that an organization will thrive as it meets its day-to-day responsibilities, and not only survives but grows in response to unforeseen circumstances and crises. Examining the depth and clarity of the processes ensure that such digital tools help in compliance management and become a significant contributor of value in every organization.