

EHS Maturity in Government: How Does the Industry Compare?



The Road to EHS Maturity in the Government Sector



The Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) provides insights from over 1000 Global Health and Safety Leaders. This benchmarking report provides a comparison of EHS maturity in the Government sector versus all industries in the study.

Government workers face a number of varying EHS hazards. Given the wide-spanning work roles, risks can range from office-based ergonomics, site related physical hazards, and different psychosocial hazards.

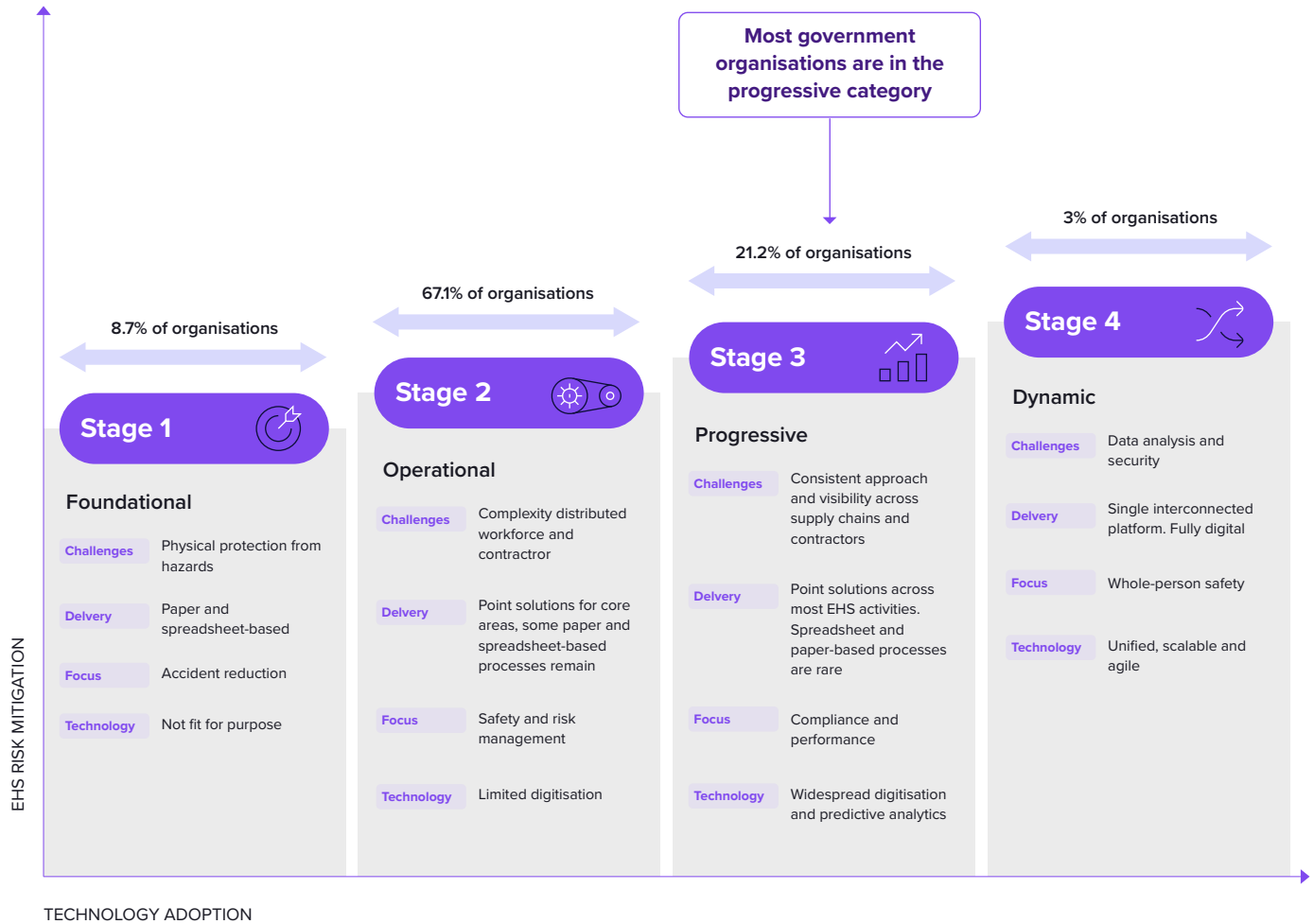
The recent HSI and Focus Network Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) highlights major gaps in EHS posture in the sector and offers guidance on how to optimize EHS outcomes. Technology plays a key role in managing EHS risk in healthcare.



Figure 1 illustrates EHS maturity in the government sector

Figure 1

Evolution of the EHS Function in the Government Sector



Technology is transforming the EHS function rapidly. AI and data analytics capabilities are already widely used in the government sector — adding value and optimising EHS outcomes.

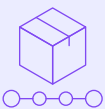
The Key Challenges Faced in the Government Sector



The GERI report identified some common challenges within Government, which are outlined in detail below.

Government workplaces contain every kind of risk, and need the tools to manage all risks across a highly distributed workforce. Budget constraints and increased demands, in addition to higher exposure to violent and abusive behaviours, are making it difficult to address psychosocial risk.

Leading EHS implementation challenges faced by government organisations include:



Complexity and lack of integration

The complexity of government organisations in terms of the widespread use of contractors and collaboration with the private sector, makes it extremely difficult to apply EHS and ESG policies consistently. EHS visibility and consistent EHS policy implementation is increasingly important in the sector.



Cybersecurity issues

Government agencies are becoming an increasingly popular target for malicious attackers. Data exfiltration from government systems, spying and DDoS attacks are becoming common and the risk needs to be addressed at all levels of government, including by health and safety professionals.



Adoption

Ensuring that EHS processes are adopted across contractors and supply chains is a major challenge. Government organisations need to encourage contractors to build EHS processes into operations and ensure that compliance occurs.



Environmental sustainability

The government plays a major role in addressing environmental sustainability concerns but it also creates environmental risk. This risk could be associated with a variety of activities ranging from clearing asbestos to managing chemical spills.

EHS Maturity in Government: Areas of Focus

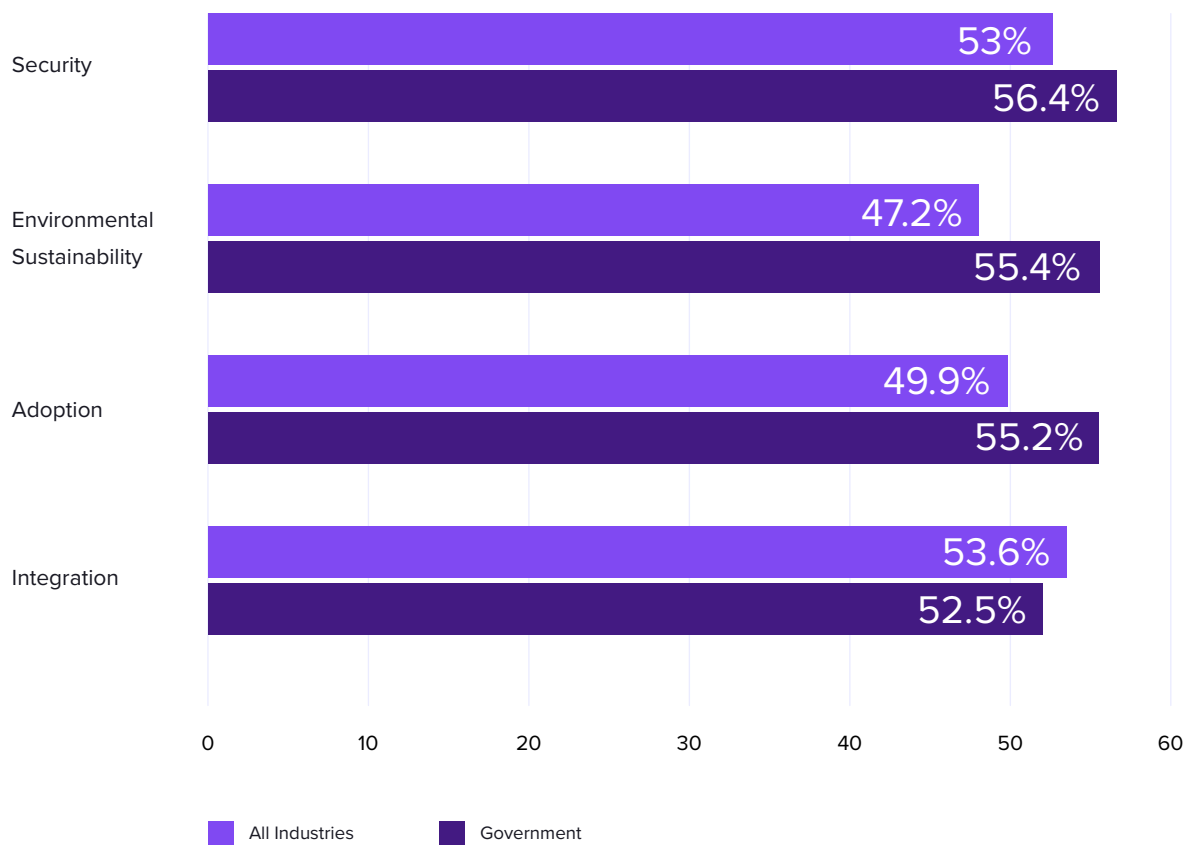
Focus Network's recent Global EHS Readiness Index (GERI) report reveals mean maturity scores by attribute for the government sector as well as other sectors. Maturity is reflected in percentages, where 100% is the highest score. Respondents were asked a series of questions relating to each component of the EHS function. Responses to these questions were then used to determine maturity for each component. For example, an organisation that indicates it cannot detect mental health incidents is given a very low score for psychosocial and mental health maturity. Another example is an organisation that indicates it has a centralised compliance management system in place. This contributes to a higher maturity score for compliance obligations. Maturity levels for each component are then aggregated to give an overall mean EHS maturity score.

The government sector is comparatively mature from an EHS perspective, relative to other industries. It is defined as progressive from an EHS perspective. Nevertheless, it is worth highlighting the EHS areas that require the most focus.

Figure 2 shows EHS components for the government sector that are the least mature. These reveal the biggest gaps in EHS posture for government organisations. It is these areas that require particular attention. It also illustrates the mean percentage score across all industries. Notably the sector is more mature than the mean for all industries in all EHS component areas except integrations. This illustrates the complexity of integrating EHS management across complex supply chains.



Figure 2
EHS Components with Low Maturity in the Government Sector





Adaptable, and Interoperable EHS Technology is Needed for the Government Sector

EHS leaders in the government sector need to unify their risk management systems and gain visibility across all EHS functions. This means that government organisations need to:

Understand their level of EHS technology maturity. They need to identify what they need to do to ensure that they progressively develop their EHS posture.

Have a consistent and unified view of all activities across their supply chains.

All documentation and data should be found in one place. Management and individual workers need visibility of all EHS processes and their implementation. Only 20% of government organisations have a universal EHS management system that offers visibility across all assets and workers, according to the GERI study.

Ensure workforce adoption. Government workers are frequently being asked to use new technology, often with limited training. Any additional or new technologies must be usable and relevant. 57% of government EHS leaders cite adoption of processes and culture as the major challenge they face according to the GERI study.

Ensure that technology is adaptable and future-proof. The government sector is undergoing radical change as digitisation becomes widespread. EHS solutions will need to keep pace with this change and ensure that solutions can be re-configured and improved continuously.

Fully leverage data. Data needs to be collected and analysed across supply chains, particularly among private sector contractors, to optimise EHS workflows and ensure compliance. Focus needs to be placed on data integrity and data security. The GERI study reveals that only 13% of government organisations have a robust and integrated data capturing system.

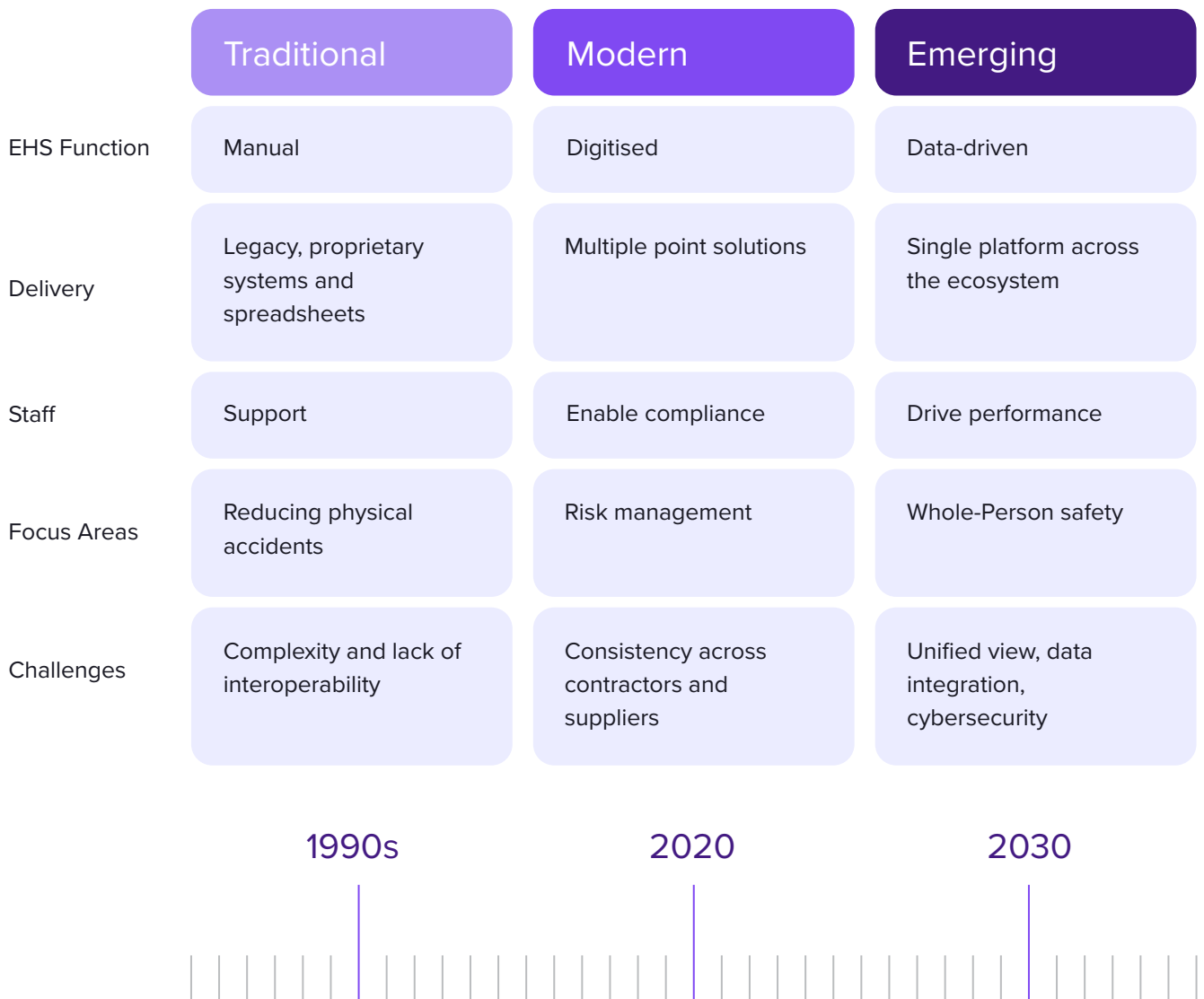


Emerging EHS Trends in the Government Sector

As complexity increases within the Government sector, so does the move to more advanced EHS processes and systems. These trends are summarised below.

Figure 3

The Evolution of the EHS Function in the Government Sector





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