
**A ROADMAP TO
SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS:
Achieving Regulatory Compliance
and Environmental, Social and
Governance (ESG) Goals**

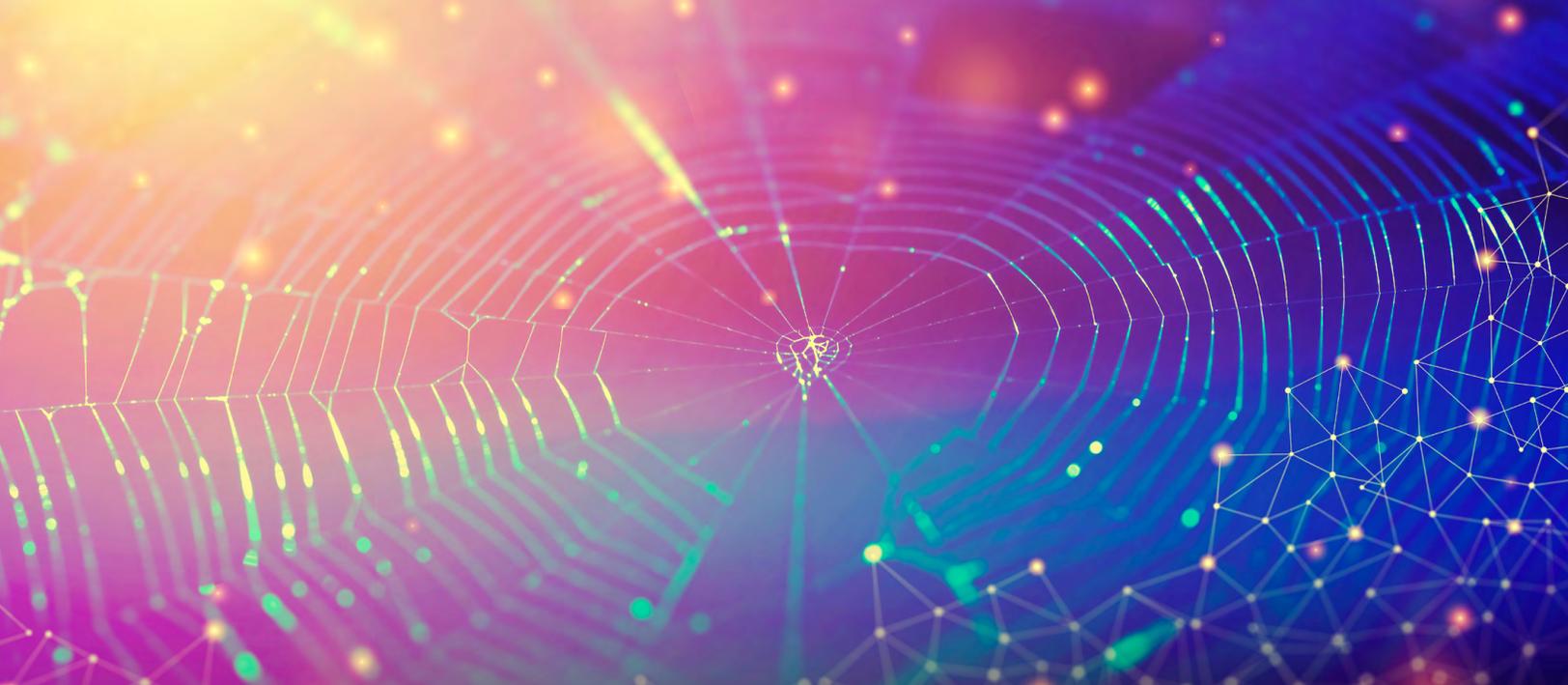


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Imagine for a minute a spider's web. There are the outer layers, which form the foundation of the structure, and there are inner layers that get more and more specialized until the middle of the web is constructed perfectly to catch the prey. Environmental regulatory compliance is a vast web of requirements that organizations must abide by in order to meet legal standards and excel in a world that increasingly values sustainable business practices.

Regulatory compliance starts, in the United States and in many other countries, with the federal requirements, which are the baseline for what is required of organizations. Then, depending upon locality, specific state or regional requirements come into play, resulting in a web of complicated and — at times — overwhelming requirements regarding all things environmental. There are emission limits for air pollutants, water discharge limits in permitting, hazardous waste disposal requirements and many more aspects of environmental law for organizations to consider.

When one part of the web is damaged, tangled or incomplete, the entire web is at risk. For organizations, this can mean steep environmental fines and a damaged reputation that no CEO wants to experience and no investor wants to see.

So, what should an organization do to manage the expectations of regulators, customers, investors and the public?

This report details a few steps that organizations can take to:

1. understand the overarching environmental and sustainability standards at play on an international level
2. meet (or exceed) environmental requirements, and
3. find solutions, like ours, that can help track compliance so as to continually improve on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) policies in place in your organization.

“**Environmental regulatory compliance is a vast web of requirements that organizations must abide by in order to meet legal standards and excel in a world that increasingly values sustainable business practices.**”

Overarching Environmental and Sustainability Goals to Keep in Mind

No matter where you are located, your organization can rely upon international standards, such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals, to help craft a corporate sustainability policy that will make your investors, employees and public stakeholders proud. These goals are just that: goals. You should think of them as separate, but complimentary, to the environmental regulatory requirements that your organization is subject to.

The goals are split into different categories that mirror what ESG investors look for and that can be used to craft your sustainability policy.

For instance, **Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts** aims to address rising global temperatures and emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) that have been plaguing environments around the globe for decades. While the goal references international agreements, most recently the Paris Agreement, and has targets that are government-policy related, such as capacity building, the goal is relevant to an organization's compliance status. For instance, an organization that operates in **countries that are parties to the Paris Agreement** should be aware of the commitments of these countries. Importantly, an organization should understand the link between what Goal 13 is trying to achieve — addressing climate change — and what the organization can do to meet the goal — lower air pollutant emissions at its facilities.

Organizations looking to be leaders in the area of climate change can take a few steps in this regard. One step is to have a full awareness of the air pollution laws applicable to its facilities around the globe. Another step is to have a mechanism in place to track compliance with those laws (and their many specific requirements).

Underlying these more tangible elements of compliance, organizations should have a policy in place that sets sustainability goals, beyond just complying with requirements, to guide organization decision making. Perhaps the organization will decide to reduce CO₂ by X amount by 2025. In order to do so, the facilities could swap out certain polluting machinery for “green” technology for a carbon neutral or zero carbon internal organization goal. Perhaps the organization can take less drastic action by following the Lowest Achievable Emissions Rate (LAER) for all sources of pollutants, regardless of whether they are new or existing to set the bar high for exceeding emission requirements.

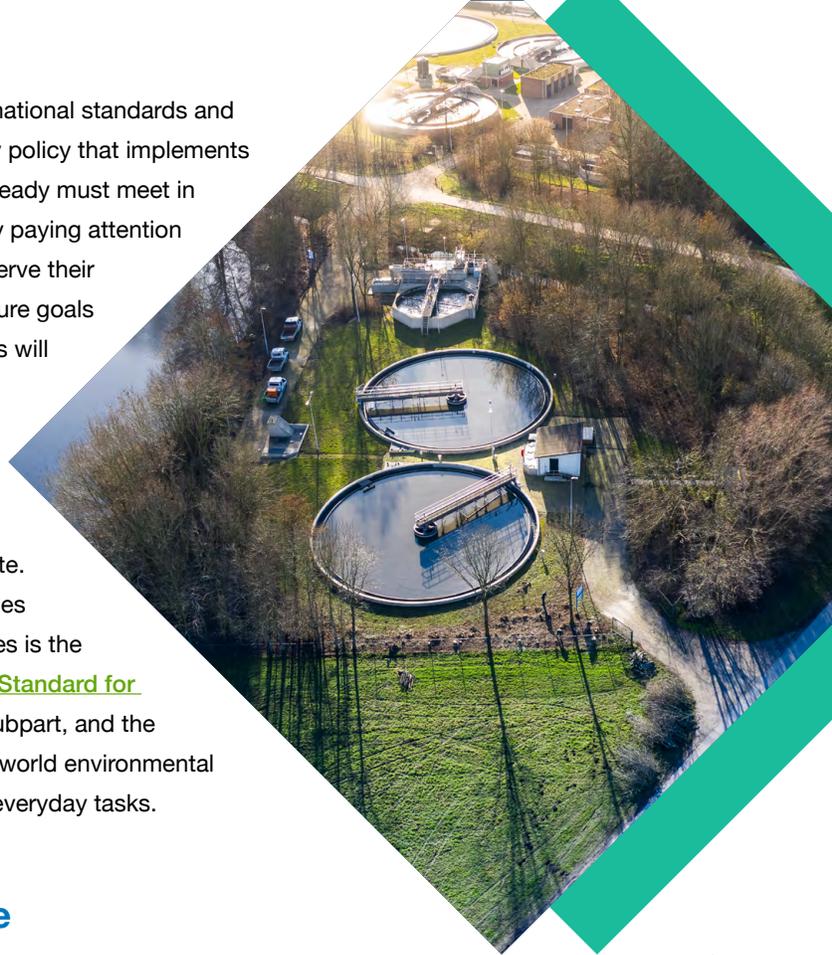
Consider also **Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation**. One of the **targets** of this goal is to improve water quality by 2030. How does this relate to your organization's processes? If you discharge pollutants into regulated waters (e.g. in the United States, this means Waters of the United States), then you must have the appropriate permits and you are obligated to report on whether or not you are meeting your permit limitations.

Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy explains that energy use is directly related to greenhouse gas emissions. By creating an internal strategy to receive your organization's energy from renewable sources, you could help to reach this goal.



The main point is that an organization like yours can look to international standards and goals, such as the UN goals, to craft an overarching sustainability policy that implements real-world solutions based on compliance obligations that you already must meet in order to operate in this global economy. Investors are increasingly paying attention to ESG factors when making choices on which organizations deserve their much-valued capital. By making the connection between big picture goals such as these and day-to-day compliance activities, organizations will be well positioned to emerge as leaders in their industrial fields.

In addition to these sustainability frameworks, at the core of environmental compliance is federal and state regulation, at least in the United States. For instance, the Clean Air Act (CAA) is the United States' most comprehensive environmental air statute. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) issues regulations under the CAA. Of particular interest to some industries is the reporting requirement under the [2016 New Source Performance Standard for Oil and Gas facilities, known widely as Subpart OOOOa](#). This Subpart, and the complexity of the reporting involved, is a key example of the real-world environmental work that environmental managers must perform as part of their everyday tasks.



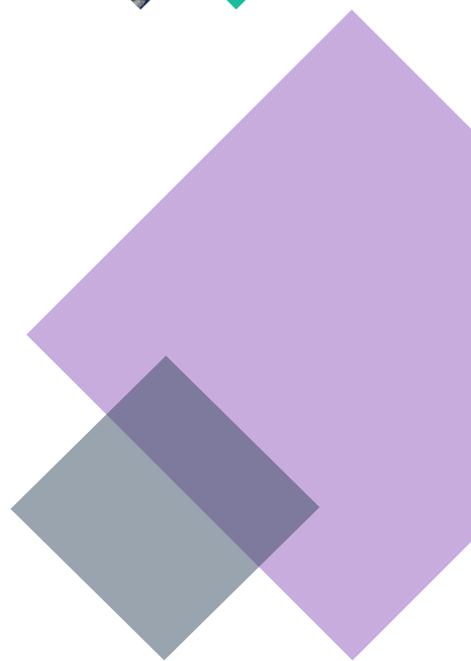
Exceed Your Environmental Compliance Expectations: How Intelx Can Help

Nowadays ESG investors are interested in organizations that not only diligently comply with environmental regulations, but that also lead the way in terms of overall sustainability.

Priorities are shifting. Instead of just meeting the baseline requirements, the most attractive organizations are forward-looking. They know that there are myriad environmental challenges ahead of them and they recognize that they need to invest in the tools to succeed. Investors know this too.

Intelx has three main product lines that address environmental compliance. The first two are interconnected and are part of Intelx's comprehensive environmental solution.

The Intelx Assets and Compliance Tracking System (ACTS) is a web-based environmental management information system (EMIS) used for collecting data on a variety of environmental mediums including air, water and waste. Intelx's Sustainability Performance Indicators (SPI) application is a tool that you can access through Intelx's main software platform that collects, tracks, manages, analyzes and reports sustainability parameters across your global organization. Both product lines are excellent reporting tools for core compliance tasks such as greenhouse gas reporting, the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) framework and the CDP framework.



ACTS

- **Overview:** In short, ACTS is a fully powered EMIS that helps you keep environmental data in one central location.
- **How can ACTS help clients?**
 - ACTS provides clear-cut and efficient data automation and integration with upstream data sources such as Continuous Emissions Monitoring Systems (CEMS).
 - You can configure ACTS to trigger tasks based on regulatory thresholds. For instance, if you know that your facility must meet an emissions limit, then you can both track compliance with that limit in the EMIS software and also trigger a task for your staff to conduct an inspection or audit to monitor compliance with that parameter. This is a powerful way to take control of your compliance.
 - Reporting is key in the world of environmental compliance. ACTS allows you to generate a Word, Excel or XML file that matches regulatory reporting forms and you can submit your reporting data with a click of a button.
 - Built into ACTS is a much-needed calculation engine that you can utilize for complex data. In addition, ACTS incorporates built-in “content packs” that are pre-configured workflows and content tailored to both EPA Subpart OOOOa (note the discussion above of this important requirement) and also the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure Rule (SPCC).

SPI

- **Overview:** SPI is a software tool that promotes sustainability reporting for both external reporting frameworks, such as GRI and GDP, and internal stakeholders such as the C-Suite.
- **How can SPI help clients?** With reporting tools embedded within the main InteleX software application, you can use SPI to do the following:
 - Centralize sustainability data in one location.
 - Participate in a variety of reporting frameworks such as GRI, CDP, the Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (SASB), the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) and the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework (UNGP).
 - Craft a holistic sustainability or ESG program. For instance, you can create sustainability initiatives, develop tasks and subtasks, report on sustainability metrics and calculate return on investment (ROIs) for various initiatives.
 - Because SPI automatically maintains an audit trail, version control is no longer a worry.

With both ACTS and SPI, you have powerful software tools available to your organization. However, reporting is not the whole picture when it comes to environmental compliance and sustainability. Permitting is a big part of the picture. This is where InteleX’s newest software offering comes into play.



With a web-based platform we were able to extend all our environmental information to all the plant sites with equal access to our policies, our training, documents and permits so we could make quicker and better decisions.”

– Maria Fran, Campbell’s Soup



As a team and EHS organization we strive to align ourselves with overall organizational goals. We think of ourselves as partners in collaboration with operations. We focus on risk mitigation (the compliance piece) and introducing efficiencies. We use ACTS (Asset Compliance and Tracking System software from InteleX) to mitigate and reduce inefficiencies.”
– Casey Rubin, manager of the environmental information team, Encana Corp.





ehsAI

You might be wondering what artificial intelligence (AI) has to do with the environment. In the past, AI wasn't a common concept; it was mostly affiliated with sci-fi tech gurus. However, times have changed, and the power of AI and machine learning has a place in the context of environmental regulatory documentation and permits.

If you've ever examined a voluminous environmental permit, poured over the requirements of a consent decree or tried to decipher a guidance document, then you know the pain of manually translating words from the page, requirement-by-requirement, into tangible actions.

- **Overview:** ehsAI is a powerful machine learning product that streamlines the transformation of any regulatory document (permits, standards, regulations, consent decrees, policies, guidance documents, etc.) into detailed, mapped requirements that you can use to complement action items in your EMIS.
- **How can ehsAI help clients?** ehsAI helps clients in the following ways:
 - Time management: ehsAI processes EHS compliance content using patent-pending machine learning algorithms to generate a complete, indexed list of action items mapped to each regulatory citation and/or permit condition within minutes. This saves environmental professionals countless hours of manual work.
 - Make sense of unstructured regulatory documents: ehsAI helps turn unstructured regulatory documents into detailed compliance requirements and it does so within one guided workflow.
 - Minimize errors and reduce risk: By utilizing automation and machine learning, ehsAI keeps you notified of updated regulatory requirements and helps you to achieve reporting accuracy, thereby minimizing the possibility of penalties.

With these three product lines, ACTS, SPI and ehsAI, Intellex provides your organization with a holistic way to manage environmental compliance and to show investors that sustainability is a core corporate value.

Think back now to the spider web analogy. Organizations are faced with a web of interconnected, sometimes interdependent, environmental regulations and sustainability goals. Investors across many industries are paying closer attention to sustainability reporting, climate-change resiliency and holistic environmental track records. As the spider web of compliance becomes more nuanced and elaborate, organizations would be well served by investing in an environmental suite of products that leverages both human capital and the power of technology.

“Combining our global EHS IM experience and software vendor partnerships with ehsAI’s advanced technology creates and delivers a powerful and cost-effective total compliance solution.”
– Lucas Wolfenden, EHS Information Management Sales Leader, Jacobs



About the Author

JESSICA SARNOWSKI

Jessica Sarnowski is an established thought leader who specializes in translating complex regulatory developments into compelling stories that reach a wide audience of EHS professionals. Jessica worked for Intellex Technologies, where she served as the Global Compliance Content Lead and then as a Senior Manager, Strategic Alliances. She has over 10 years of environmental policy and law experience, most recently as the Senior Content Marketing Manager for Enhesa. In the public sector, Jessica created educational trainings for the legal community as the Director of Professional Education for the Environmental Law Institute and she also completed an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE) Fellowship with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Jessica received her Juris Doctor from Vermont Law School and Master of Laws degree in Environmental Law from The George Washington University Law School. Jessica is currently working as an independent consultant and can be reached through LinkedIn. <https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessicasarnowski/>.

About Intellex

With almost 30 years of EHSQ experience, we know a thing or two about how safety, quality and sustainability can preserve lives and protect the planet. And we know you need to drive productivity and operation excellence, too. That's why our technology solutions are built for EHSQ experts by EHSQ experts.

About ehsAI

ehsAI is a next wave compliance technology company that uses artificial intelligence and deep learning to help organizations greatly reduce the costs and risks of permitting and compliance. A woman-led business, ehsAI is committed to integrity, diversity, and innovation in developing disruptive solutions that transform environmental, health and safety and compliance management for business. ehsAI serves the technology, manufacturing, energy, chemical, construction, utility, and retail industries. For more information about ehsAI, please visit www.ehsAI.com.

How You Can Contact Intellex

Free Trial:

If you would like a free trial of our software solution, please [click here](#). You will have the opportunity to experience the basic “plug-and-play” software before making a commitment.

Free Demo:

If you would like a demonstration of our software solution, please [click here](#). This includes a product tour and a conversation with our software experts.

Pricing Information:

If you would like to receive a custom quote or pricing-related information, please [click here](#). This includes the total business value that our software will provide, projected ROI, financial benefits via a “hard dollar” analysis and total business benefits via a “soft dollar” analysis.