

# Regulated Buyers: What to Prioritize (and Avoid) in a CMMS

Too many manufacturers learn the hard way that not all CMMS platforms are built to handle the complexity of compliance-focused operations.

Here are the **critical categories to assess**:

## Work Order Management and Traceability

### LOOK FOR

Systems that track task completion and technician identity, part usage, and linked asset history. This is essential for root cause analysis and proving compliance during audits.

### AVOID

Systems that capture minimal data or allow edits without logging changes. These gaps undermine data integrity and make compliance validation difficult.

## Preventive Maintenance Scheduling

### LOOK FOR

Automation based on time, usage, or condition to ensure equipment is maintained proactively.

### AVOID

Static PM schedules that don't adjust to actual operating conditions or rely on manual input.

## Digital Audit Trails and Signatures

### LOOK FOR

Built-in timestamping, role-based signatures, and change history for every action taken in the system.

### AVOID

CMMS platforms that treat audit trails as an add-on or require external validation tools.

## Mobile-Friendly, Technician-First Interface

### LOOK FOR

Intuitive mobile access that allows technicians to log work, scan assets, and access instructions in real time.

### AVOID

Desktop-only tools that delay data entry and reduce adoption on the floor.

## System Integration (ERP, MES, SCADA)

### LOOK FOR

Out-of-the-box or configurable integrations with the systems your operations and IT teams rely on.

### AVOID

CMMS platforms that force duplicate data entry or require custom development for basic connections.

## Access Control and Deployment Flexibility

### LOOK FOR

Role-based access permissions and deployment models that fit your IT and regulatory requirements—on-prem, cloud, or hybrid.

### AVOID

Systems with rigid hosting options or limited security configuration.