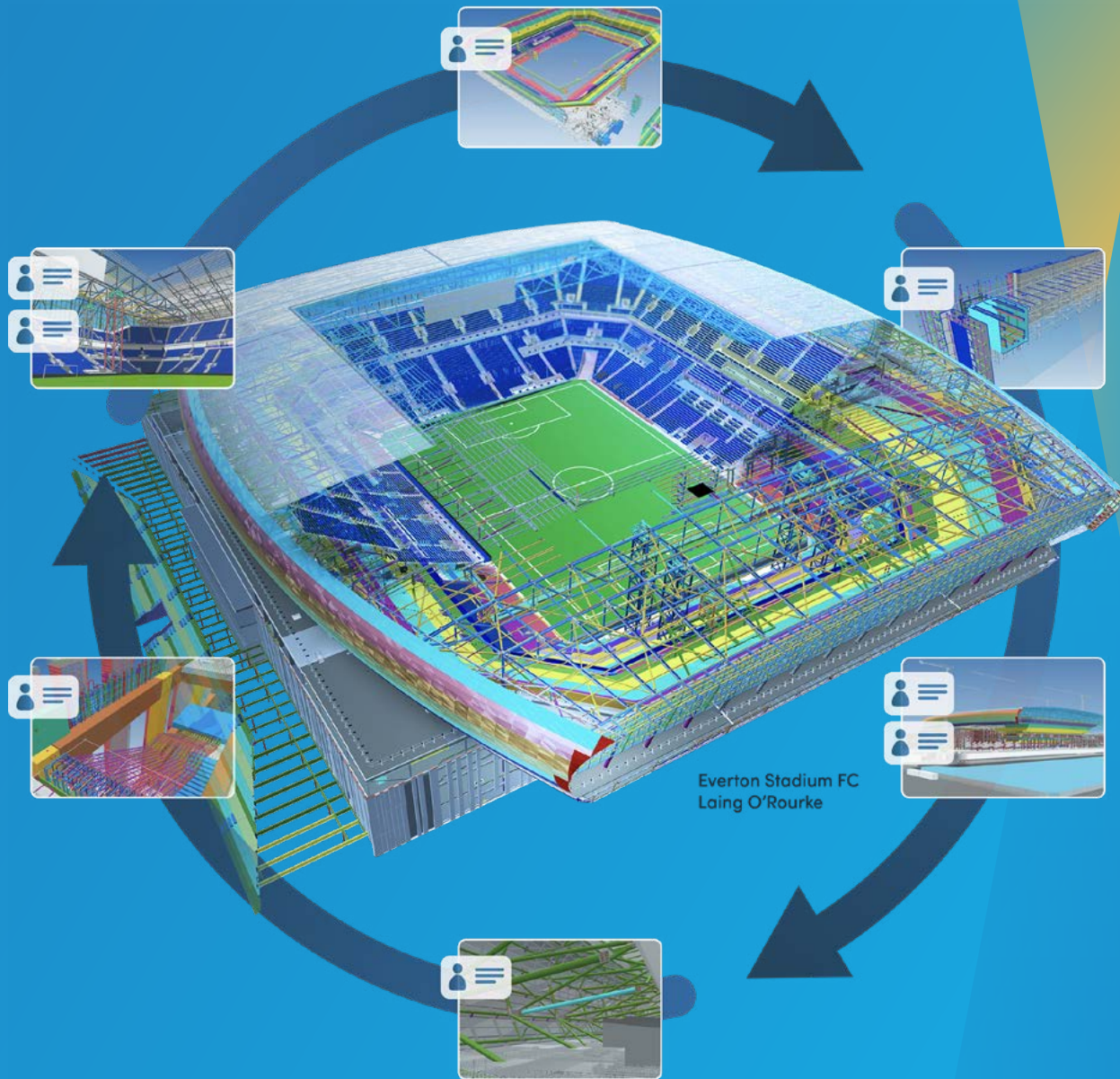


INDUSTRY SNAPSHOT

The hidden barrier to BIM collaboration

What 100+ BIM professionals reveal
about workflows, consistency, standards,
and maturity gaps





Everton Stadium FC
Laing O'Rourke

1. Introduction

BIM promises better collaboration, higher quality models, and more predictable project outcomes. But many teams who have embraced BIM still experience friction in their daily workflows.

In an age where we are more technologically equipped and digitally-savvy than ever, we wanted to know why this is.

To better understand the source of today's biggest BIM challenges, we decided to address a series of focused questions directly to the BIM professionals themselves.

This report summarizes the results and highlights insights into the current state of BIM collaboration.

2. Research approach

To explore today's biggest challenges in BIM collaboration, we conducted a series of targeted LinkedIn polls aimed at BIM professionals.

Respondents included BIM Managers, BIM Coordinators, Digital Leads and other professionals involved in model coordination and project delivery.

The research consisted of four consecutive questions, each building on the previous response to explore how collaboration challenges develop: from day-to-day workflow issues to broader structural factors.

The questions focused on:

- The biggest struggles in BIM workflows
- Where collaboration processes break down
- Barriers to maintaining consistent workflows
- The maturity of BIM standards management

The results provide insights into how BIM professionals perceive collaboration challenges today, and where the underlying issues may lie.



3. The insight journey

What we see from the results is a clear progression: what appears as a collaboration issue is, in reality, a deeper structural problem.

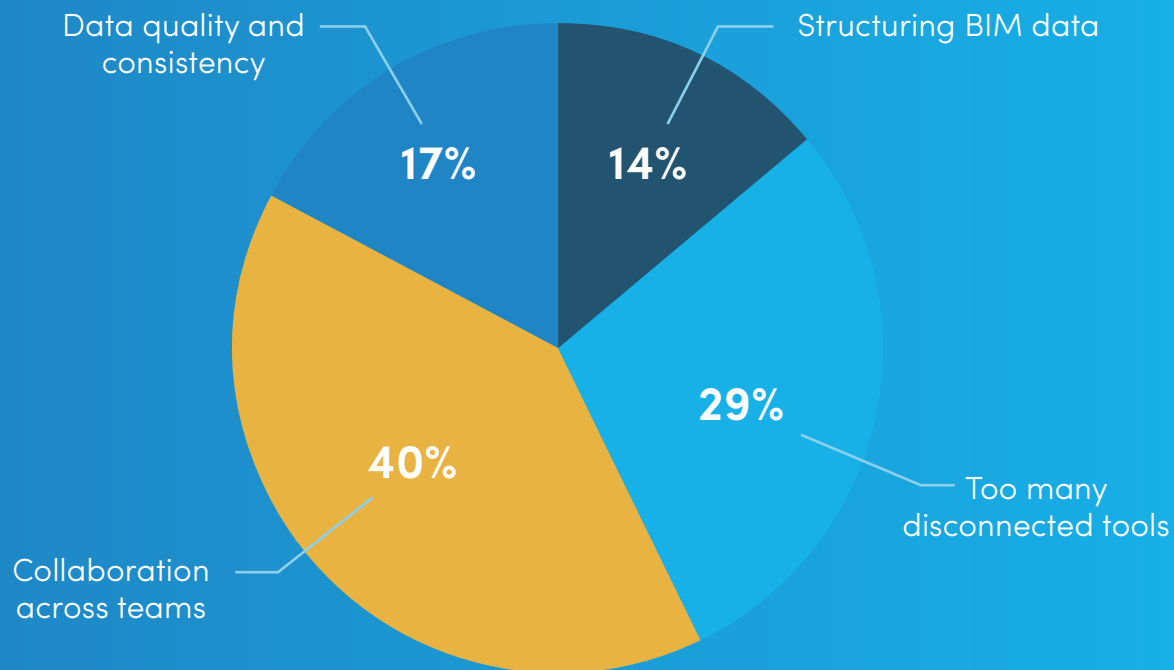
As we move through these results, a pattern emerges: from visible workflow challenges to underlying issues in consistency, standards, and organizational maturity.



4.1.

What are BIM professionals struggling with the most?

What are you struggling with most in your BIM workflow?



Insight

The largest share of respondents identified collaboration across teams as their biggest challenge in BIM workflows, with disconnected tools adding a layer of complexity to this.

Despite increasing digitalization and advanced modeling tools, coordination between disciplines remains difficult.

Interpretation

This highlights a critical gap: while modeling capabilities have advanced, the way teams work together has evolved to keep pace.

Successful BIM implementation requires alignment between disciplines, teams, and organizations.

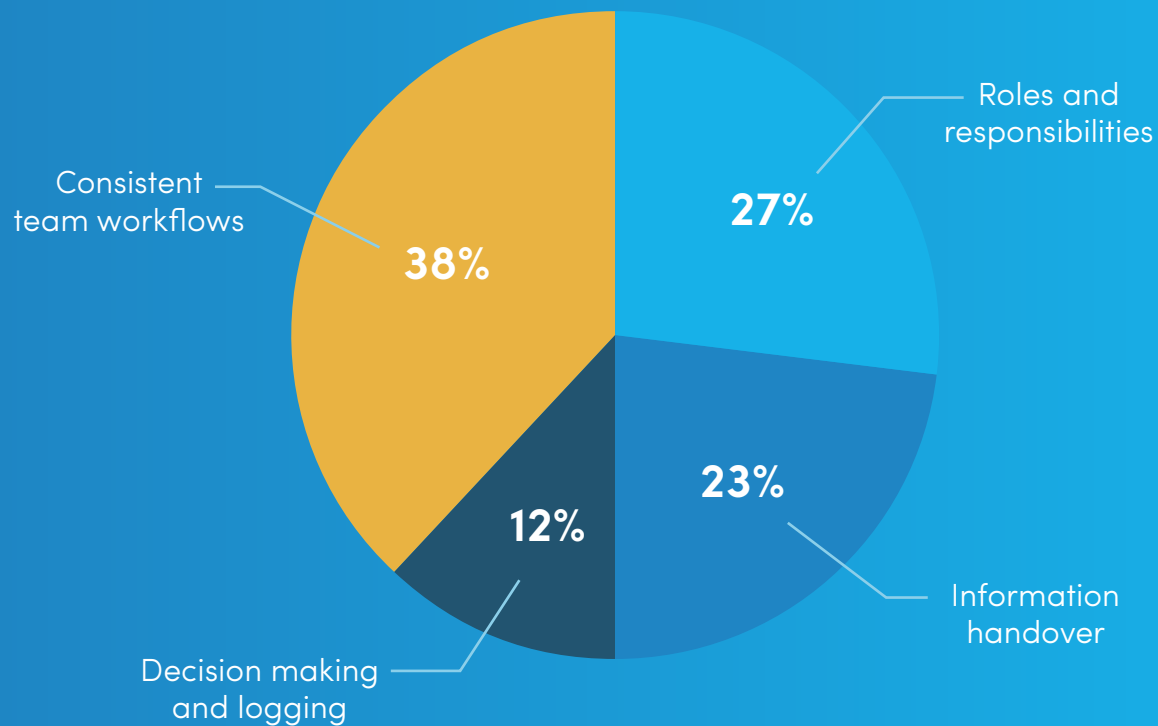
Without this alignment, models may be connected digitally, but workflows remain fragmented.

In addition, disconnected tools can further add to the already challenging task of aligning team members and stakeholders.

4.2.

Where is collaboration breaking down?

Where do your BIM collaboration processes fail?



Insight

Respondents indicated that inconsistent team workflows is the main point of failure in collaboration processes.

Interpretation

When teams follow different processes, use different validation approaches, or interpret standards differently, coordination becomes unpredictable.

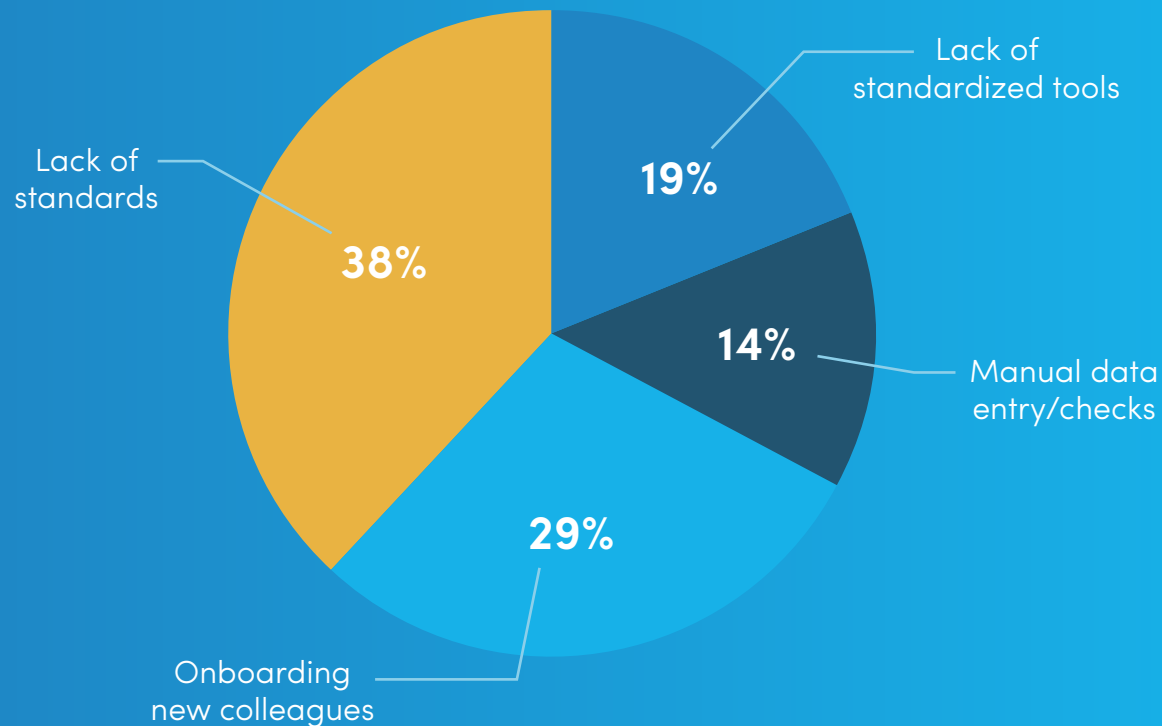
Instead of supporting collaboration, the workflow itself becomes a source of friction.

Consistency is therefore essential for scalable BIM collaboration.

4.3.

What is the main barrier to achieving consistency?

What is the biggest barrier to maintaining a consistent workflow?



Insight

lack of clear standards was identified as the primary barrier to maintaining consistent collaboration workflows.

Interpretation

Standards define how teams structure information, validate models, and exchange data.

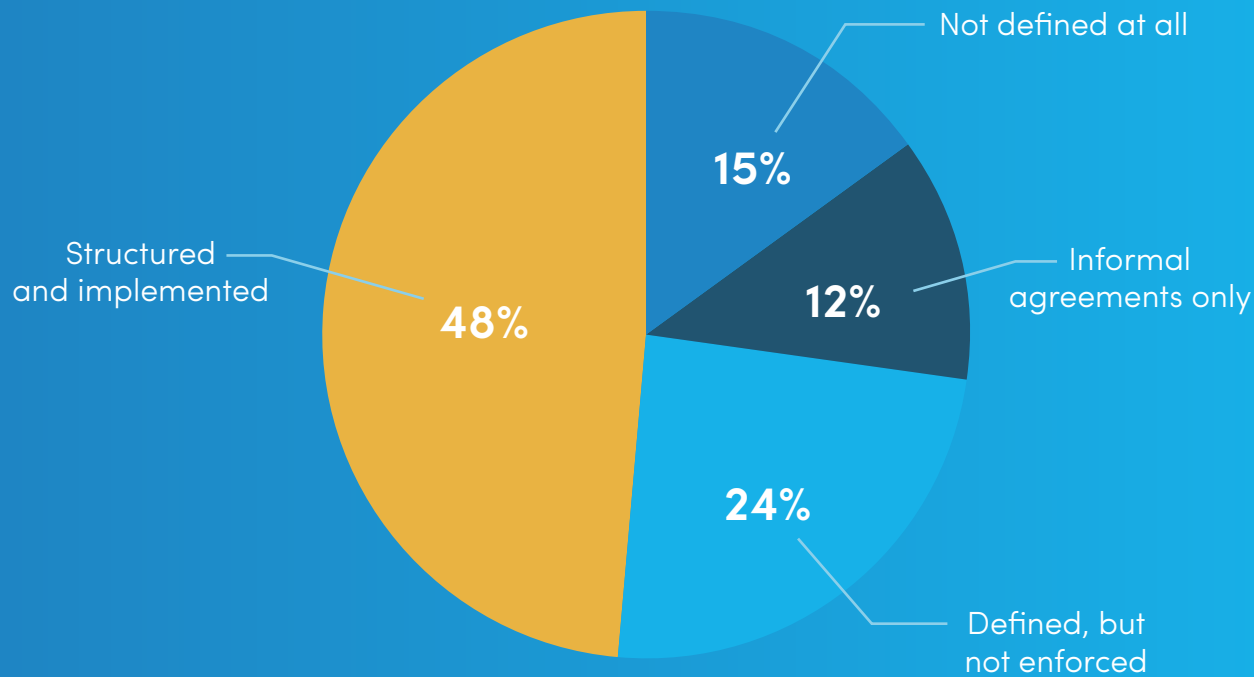
Without clear standards, teams must rely on interpretation, leading to variation across projects and organizations.

This reframes the problem: BIM collaboration is not failing because of tools, but because of how work is defined, structured, and governed.

4.4.

How mature is BIM standards management today?

How are BIM standards currently managed in your organization?



Insight

Almost half of all respondents indicated that BIM standards are structured and implemented in their organization.

This highlights a clear split across the industry.

This means that for the other half, standards are still informal, fragmented, or inconsistently applied.

Interpretation

Today, there are tools to support every process and activity in the AEC industry. Standards rarely fail due to a lack of technology.

More often, the challenge lies in ownership, alignment, and organizational maturity.

Without clear responsibility and shared expectations, standards remain trapped in documentation instead of embraced as operational practice. Even in organizations where standards exist, if they are not embedded into workflows, they become incredibly hard to scale as projects, teams, and responsibilities grow.

5. What this means for the industry

1. Collaboration is primarily a governance challenge

BIM collaboration does not fail due to a lack of tools, but to a lack of structure.

Clear responsibilities, shared processes, and aligned expectations are critical for successful BIM implementation.

2. Consistency requires defined information requirements

For BIM to deliver predictable outcomes, projects require:

- Clear data structures
- Defined validation criteria
- Well-defined roles and responsibilities

These elements provide the foundation for reliable workflows that deliver predictable outcomes.

3. Standards must be embedded in daily workflows

Standards only create value when they are operational.

They must be:

- Shareable across teams
- Measurable and verifiable
- Embedded in everyday project workflows

Only then can BIM collaboration scale across the entire project lifecycle.

6. From insight to action

Based on these findings, organizations that want to strengthen BIM collaboration should focus on five priorities:

- 1. Define clear information requirements**
- 2. Assign ownership of BIM standards**
- 3. Align client and project expectations**
- 4. Implement automated model validation**
- 5. Ensure transparent issue management**

Focusing on these five areas will transform standards from theoretical documentation into operational practice.





Stronger BIM collaboration starts with practical workflows

Ready to move from insight to action?

In our eBook, **5 practical steps to a more effective BIM workflow**, we explore a framework that helps teams build more connected, consistent, and effective BIM workflows.

[Download the eBook](#)