ISO 45001:2018

Save lives – reduce losses – improve your image – keep safe, keep healthy

More than 2.78 million deaths a year as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases, in addition to 374 million non-fatal injuries and illnesses are not just statistics* – they have an enormous impact on families and communities, and the cost to business and economies is high. An Occupational Health & Safety Management System is an important step towards reducing these figures and their impact, even more so if it is certified according to the new ISO 45001:2018.

ISO 45001:2018 follows in the wake of the recently revised ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001: 2015 with their High Level Structure and emphasis on managing risks (PDCA). The new standard, which will replace BS OHSAS 18001:2007 in its entirety, will finally see occupational health and safety capable of full integration into an existing management system, even including aspects of corporate health management. Joint topics are,

e.g. context of the organization, leadership and commitment, or the risk-based approach to processes. This elevates the new standard for workplace health and safety even more into the ranks of corporate leadership subjects of strategic significance - a milestone on the way to a comprehensive, holistic and globally effective occupational health and safety protection.

An occupational health and safety (OHSAS) management system can help organizations manage their risks and improve their performance in respect to workplace safety. Objectives and effective policies will result in a variety of advantages for certified organizations, starting with reductions in workplace incidents, staff absences and insurance premiums, and leading to a better reputation and highly motivated employees.

These are a couple of new features worth noting

Health and safety will become a central aspect of the overall management system, requiring a firm commitment to continuous improvement from top management. At the same time, it will be necessary to involve all employees in reaching OHSAS objectives.

Context of the organization: understand the needs and expectations of interested parties (commonly known as stakeholders), and take into account all internal and external issues that my affect the ability of the organization to meet its OHSAS objectives. Ideally, this includes subcontractors and suppliers.

Minimizing the risk of harm also requires taking into account any concerns that can lead to long term health issues and absence from work. This may include psychosocial factors like stress, which can be managed by encouraging employees to take an active role in their own OHSAS, and to establish a culture of health and safety.

Stronger requirement to address legal and regulatory compliance issues in the entire management system, throughout all phases of the PDCA-cycle. The Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) model already found in ISO 9001 and ISO 1400 provides a framework for organizations to minimize risk.

* published by ILO, the International Labor Organization

5 tips to keep your workers healthy and safe at work #ISO45001

1 Identify all the process and activities at your place of work

2 Check with the help of the workers themselves whether any activity has significant associated hazards that could cause harm?

Some dangerous situations/processes to watch out for include working at height, moving parts in machinery, electrical equipment, chemicals, construction activities and farm working operations, etc.

3 Reduce risks that can lead to serious injury (accidents or long term sickness) by removing the hazard, modifying the work process, protecting workers, etc.

Examples include long term exposure to handling heavy items, radiation, noise, vibration, visual display screens, chemicals etc.

5 Improve by always looking out for what could be done better and more safely.

4 Verify whether the measures you have in place to protect workers are working properly and that rules are being followed.

Source: https://committee.iso.org/home/pc283

An organization's overall safety performance can only be improved if the hazard profile of the organisation has been accurately determined and appropriately addressed; and the type of business operation has been understood and analyzed to appreciate which factors have the greatest impact on health and safety.

Organizations that have not yet implemented a management system then need to establish its scope, and determine the objectives their system will be expected to achieve. This of course requires the establishment of an OHSAS policy. In order to achieve implementation within the desired timeframe, a step-by-step plan complete with the required resources and competencies needs to be drawn up, so as to identify any gaps.

Inducing employers to take a comprehensive, programmatic and preventive responsibility for OHSAS rather than just prescribing specific solutions has emerged as a major new regulatory strategy and this approach has also been voluntarily assumed by an increasing number of (generally large) organizations.

For organizations looking to have their system certified, the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) has specified a three-year transition period, starting from the date of publication of ISO 45001 (12 March, 2018). DQS customers will receive all information necessary to smoothly transition to the new ISO standard for "Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for us".

Dr.-Ing. Eric Werner-Korall
Global Program Manager
DQS Holding GmbH

Visit the website of ISO for more information on the ISO 45001 series of standards.

To receive individual information about the certification of your organization's management system, please contact the DQS office nearest you.

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