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TOPIC - OHSAS 18001 / Health & Safety

What is OHSAS 18001?

OHSAS 18000 is an International Occupational Health and Safety Management System specification. It comprises two parts, 18001 and 18002 and embraces BS8800 as well as a number of other publications.

OHSAS 18001 is the assessment specification for an Occupational Health and Safety Management System. It puts together a framework that allows an organisation to consistently identify and control its health and safety risks, reduce the potentials for accidents, aid legislative compliance and improve overall performance.

It was developed in response to the need for companies to meet their health and safety obligations in an efficient manner.

OHSAS 18001 addresses the following key areas:

- Planning for hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control
- OHSAS management programme
- Structure and responsibility
- Training, competence and awareness
- Consultation and communication
- Operational control
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Performance measuring, monitoring and improvement

It was created via a concerted effort from a number of the worlds leading national standards bodies, certification bodies, and specialist consultancies.

OHSAS 18001 has been developed to be compatible with ISO 9001 (Quality) and ISO 14001 (Environmental) management system standards. This allows the integration of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems.



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What are the benefits?

Having OHSAS 18001 will help ensure that the organisation is taking the effective measures and implementing the necessary controls to ensure that all safety and risks associated with work activities have been identified and are being managed correctly.

The benefits of registration of OHSAS 18001 are:

- Improved safety levels by controlling hazards and risks
- Better management of health and safety risks at present and in the future
- Gaining competitive advantage as able to demonstrate commitment of health & safety to stakeholders and conformance to others
- Improved overall performance as underlines commitment to an innovative and forward thinking approach
- Improved operational efficiency through accident management reduction and reduction in down time
- Reduced costs for insurance premiums, compensations, or penalties for breach of legislation

Who is it relevant to?

OHSAS can be used by any organisation who wants to implement a formal procedure helping to reduce risks associated with health & safety in the working environment for employees, customers and the general public.

Companies need to demonstrate that their businesses are managed efficiently and responsibly and that they can provide a reliable service without excessive downtime caused by work related incidents.

An occupational health and safety management system is common sense as well as legal requirement in many countries worldwide.



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Typically to address any of this, you need to put in / have a **Management System** that is **tailored to your activities** and which is structured to satisfy the requirements of OHSAS 18001.

At SeH, we can help you to...

A/ [If you need this - usually voluntary but often customer driven...]

- ✓ **Understand what is required** and from that....
- ✓ **Design a system** that is unique to you & your activities / operations
- ✓ **Develop this system** into reality
- ✓ **Implement the system** i.e. put it into practice / daily use
- ✓ **Help you to manage it** & more importantly to get **maximum benefits** from it

B/ [For those of you already have such controls.....]

- ✓ **Improve / Enhance** any existing system / arrangements
- ✓ Help you to manage it more **effectively**
- ✓ Help you to maintain it **efficiently**
- ✓ Provide annual **Compliance Reports** as part of your Duty of Care [as as part of any defence re the Corporate Manslaughter & Homicide Act]

The first stage is usually to conduct a **gap analysis** to see what you already have or do that may already suit requirements. This decides how much help you actually need and identifies exactly what needs to be done. We then provide whatever help is necessary to get you there.

Our help can also involve working with the chosen Registration / Assessment Body. Such a body must hold UKAS approval for it to be valid / recognised by your customers.

Reference = A management system in accordance with OHSAS 18001 will provide your organization with a set of processes that ensure a common sense approach to the management of your organization.