

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ASSESSMENT SERIES

Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements

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National foreword

Publishing information

This British Standard was published by BSI. It is the official UK implementation of OHSAS 18001:2007, which supersedes OHSAS 18001:1999.

BS OHSAS 18001 will be maintained in line with any changes to OHSAS 18001, subject to the approval of BSI Technical Committee HS/1, *Occupational health and safety management*, which collated the UK comments on the second Working Draft of OHSAS 18001 and put forward its preferred position.

A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

Contractual and legal considerations

In the UK, and Europe generally, there are various legal requirements for occupational health and safety that apply to the potentially harmful effects of work activities and which extend beyond the workplace to those affected by workplace activities (see Note to 3.12 on the definition of occupational health and safety). It is essential for the organization to take the matters addressed by these legal requirements into account in establishing, implementing and maintaining its OH&S management system – and in particular when identifying hazards, assessing risks and determining controls (see 4.3.1 and 4.3.2). This standard ought therefore to be read in conjunction with BS 8800 and HSG 65,¹⁾ which give good practice guidance on complying with such legal requirements in the UK.

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

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¹⁾ BS 8800, *Occupational health and safety management systems – Guide*, and HSG 65, *Successful health and safety management*.

Contents

Acknowledgement *ii*

Foreword *iii*

Introduction *v*

1 Scope *1*

2 Reference publications *1*

3 Terms and definitions *2*

4 OH&S management system requirements *5*

Annexes

Annex A (informative) Correspondence between OHSAS 18001:2007, ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000 *15*

Annex B (informative) Correspondence between OHSAS 18001, OHSAS 18002, and the ILO-OSH:2001 *Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems* *18*

Bibliography *22*

List of figures

Figure 1 – OH&S management system model for this OHSAS Standard *vi*

List of tables

Table A.1 – Correspondence between OHSAS 18001:2007, ISO 14001:2004 and ISO 9001:2000 *15*

Table B.1 – Correspondence between the clauses of the OHSAS documents and the clauses of the ILO-OSH Guidelines *20*

Summary of pages

This document comprises a front cover, an inside front cover, pages i to viii, pages 1 to 22, an inside back cover and a back cover.

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American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA)
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Czech Accreditation Institute (CAI)
Det Norske Veritas (DNV)
DS Certification A/S
EEF the manufacturers' organisation
ENLAR Compliance Services, Inc.
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NPKF ELECTON
NQA
Quality Management Institute (QMI)
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Service de Normalisation Industrielle Marocaine (SNIMA)
SGS United Kingdom Ltd
SIRIM QAS International
SPRING Singapore
Standards Institution of Israel (SII)
Standards New Zealand (SNZ)
Sucofindo International Certification Services (SICS)
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We would also like to recognize the invaluable contribution made by those many organizations who took the time to review the working drafts of OHSAS 18001, and who submitted comments for consideration. This helped us greatly in improving the standard, and is much appreciated.

¹⁾ As the regulatory authority responsible for health and safety in Great Britain, the Health and Safety Executive would wish to make it clear that reliance on the OHSAS Standard by organizations will not absolve them from compliance with any of their legal health and safety obligations under the laws of England & Wales, and Scotland.

Foreword

This Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) Standard and the accompanying OHSAS 18002, *Guidelines for the implementation of OHSAS 18001*, have been developed in response to customer demand for a recognizable occupational health and safety management system standard against which their management systems can be assessed and certified.

OHSAS 18001 has been developed to be compatible with the ISO 9001:2000 (Quality) and ISO 14001:2004 (Environmental) management systems standards, in order to facilitate the integration of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems by organizations, should they wish to do so.

This OHSAS Standard will be reviewed or amended when considered appropriate. Reviews will be conducted when new editions of either ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 are published, to ensure continuing compatibility.

This OHSAS Standard will be withdrawn on publication of its contents in, or as, an International Standard.

This OHSAS Standard has been drafted in accordance with the rules given in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (OHSAS 18001:1999), which has been technically revised.

The principal changes with respect to the previous edition are as follows.

- The importance of “health” has now been given greater emphasis.
- OHSAS 18001 now refers to itself as a standard, not a specification, or document, as in the earlier edition. This reflects the increasing adoption of OHSAS 18001 as the basis for national standards on occupational health and safety management systems.
- The “Plan-Do-Check-Act” model diagram is only given in the Introduction, in its entirety, and not also as sectional diagrams at the start of each major clause.
- Reference publications in Clause **2** have been limited to purely international documents.
- New definitions have been added, and existing definitions revised.
- Significant improvement in alignment with ISO 14001:2004 throughout the standard, and improved compatibility with ISO 9001:2000.
- The term “tolerable risk” has been replaced by the term “acceptable risk” (see **3.1**).
- The term “accident” is now included in the term “incident” (see **3.9**).
- The definition of the term “hazard” no longer refers to “damage to property or damage to the workplace environment” (see **3.6**).

It is now considered that such “damage” is not directly related to occupational health and safety management, which is the purpose of this OHSAS Standard, and that it is included in the field of asset management. Instead, the risk of such “damage” having an effect on occupational health and safety should be identified through the organization’s risk assessment process, and be controlled through the application of appropriate risk controls.

- Sub-clauses **4.3.3** and **4.3.4** have been merged, in line with ISO 14001:2004.
- A new requirement has been introduced for the consideration of the hierarchy of controls as part of OH&S planning (see **4.3.1**).
- Management of change is now more explicitly addressed (see **4.3.1** and **4.4.6**).
- A new clause on the “Evaluation of compliance” (see **4.5.2**) has been introduced.
- New requirements have been introduced for participation and consultation (see **4.4.3.2**).
- New requirements have been introduced for the investigation of incidents (see **4.5.3.1**).

This publication does not purport to include all necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with this Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.

Introduction

Organizations of all kinds are increasingly concerned with achieving and demonstrating sound occupational health and safety (OH&S) performance by controlling their OH&S risks, consistent with their OH&S policy and objectives. They do so in the context of increasingly stringent legislation, the development of economic policies and other measures that foster good OH&S practices, and increased concern expressed by interested parties about OH&S issues.

Many organizations have undertaken OH&S “reviews” or “audits” to assess their OH&S performance. On their own, however, these “reviews” and “audits” may not be sufficient to provide an organization with the assurance that its performance not only meets, but will continue to meet, its legal and policy requirements. To be effective, they need to be conducted within a structured management system that is integrated within the organization.

The OHSAS Standards covering OH&S management are intended to provide organizations with the elements of an effective OH&S management system that can be integrated with other management requirements and help organizations achieve OH&S and economic objectives. These standards, like other International Standards, are not intended to be used to create non-tariff trade barriers or to increase or change an organization’s legal obligations.

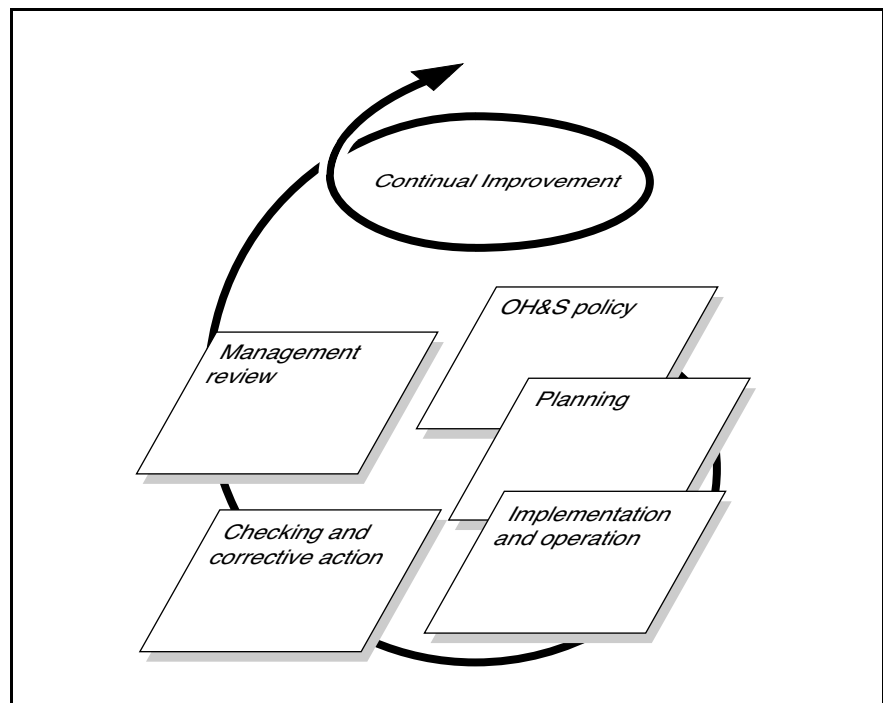
This OHSAS Standard specifies requirements for an OH&S management system to enable an organization to develop and implement a policy and objectives which take into account legal requirements and information about OH&S risks. It is intended to apply to all types and sizes of organizations and to accommodate diverse geographical, cultural and social conditions. The basis of the approach is shown in Figure 1. The success of the system depends on commitment from all levels and functions of the organization, and especially from top management. A system of this kind enables an organization to develop an OH&S policy, establish objectives and processes to achieve the policy commitments, take action as needed to improve its performance and demonstrate the conformity of the system to the requirements of this OHSAS Standard. The overall aim of this OHSAS Standard is to support and promote good OH&S practices, in balance with socio-economic needs. It should be noted that many of the requirements can be addressed concurrently or revisited at any time.

The second edition of this OHSAS Standard is focused on clarification of the first edition, and has taken due consideration of the provisions of ISO 9001, ISO14001, ILO-OSH, and other OH&S management system standards or publications to enhance the compatibility of these standards for the benefit of the user community.

There is an important distinction between this OHSAS Standard, which describes the requirements for an organization's OH&S management system and can be used for certification/registration and/or self-declaration of an organization's OH&S management system, and a non-certifiable guideline intended to provide generic assistance to an organization for establishing, implementing or improving an OH&S management system. OH&S management encompasses a full range of issues, including those with strategic and competitive implications. Demonstration of successful implementation of this OHSAS Standard can be used by an organization to assure interested parties that an appropriate OH&S management system is in place.

Those organizations requiring more general guidance on a broad range of OH&S management system issues are referred to OHSAS 18002. Any reference to other International Standards is for information only.

Figure 1 **OH&S management system model for this OHSAS Standard**



NOTE This OHSAS Standard is based on the methodology known as Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA). PDCA can be briefly described as follows.

- **Plan:** establish the objectives and processes necessary to deliver results in accordance with the organization's OH&S policy.
- **Do:** implement the processes.
- **Check:** monitor and measure processes against OH&S policy, objectives, legal and other requirements, and report the results.
- **Act:** take actions to continually improve OH&S performance.

Many organizations manage their operations via the application of a system of processes and their interactions, which can be referred to as the "process approach". ISO 9001 promotes the use of the process approach. Since PDCA can be applied to all processes, the two methodologies are considered to be compatible.

This OHSAS Standard contains requirements that can be objectively audited; however it does not establish absolute requirements for OH&S performance beyond the commitments, in the OH&S policy, to comply with applicable legal requirements and with other requirements to which the organization subscribes, to the prevention of injury and ill health and to continual improvement. Thus, two organizations carrying out similar operations but having different OH&S performance can both conform to its requirements.

This OH&S Standard does not include requirements specific to other management systems, such as those for quality, environmental, security, or financial management, though its elements can be aligned or integrated with those of other management systems. It is possible for an organization to adapt its existing management system(s) in order to establish an OH&S management system that conforms to the requirements of this OHSAS Standard. It is pointed out, however, that the application of various elements of the management system might differ depending on the intended purpose and the interested parties involved.

The level of detail and complexity of the OH&S management system, the extent of documentation and the resources devoted to it depend on a number of factors, such as the scope of the system, the size of an organization and the nature of its activities, products and services, and the organizational culture. This may be the case in particular for small and medium-sized enterprises.

Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements

1 Scope

This Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) Standard specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, to enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its OH&S performance. It does not state specific OH&S performance criteria, nor does it give detailed specifications for the design of a management system.

This OHSAS Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- a) establish an OH&S management system to eliminate or minimize risks to personnel and other interested parties who could be exposed to OH&S hazards associated with its activities;
- b) implement, maintain and continually improve an OH&S management system;
- c) assure itself of its conformity with its stated OH&S policy;
- d) demonstrate conformity with this OHSAS Standard by:
 - 1) making a self-determination and self-declaration, or
 - 2) seeking confirmation of its conformance by parties having an interest in the organization, such as customers, or
 - 3) seeking confirmation of its self-declaration by a party external to the organization, or
 - 4) seeking certification/registration of its OH&S management system by an external organization.

All the requirements in this OHSAS Standard are intended to be incorporated into any OH&S management system. The extent of the application will depend on such factors as the OH&S policy of the organization, the nature of its activities and the risks and complexity of its operations.

This OHSAS Standard is intended to address occupational health and safety, and is not intended to address other health and safety areas such as employee wellbeing/wellness programmes, product safety, property damage or environmental impacts.

2 Reference publications

Other publications that provide information or guidance are listed in the bibliography. It is advisable that the latest editions of such publications be consulted. Specifically, reference should be made to:

OHSAS 18002, *Occupational health and safety management systems – Guidelines for the implementation of OHSAS 18001*

International Labour Organization:2001, *Guidelines on Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OSH-MS)*