

BS OHSAS 18001: Management Briefing

BS OHSAS = Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series

"A management system is a set of interrelated elements used to establish policy and objectives and to achieve those objectives"

BS OHSAS 18001, like other Management Systems, is a certified standard which allows organisations to clearly demonstrate their commitment to health and safety management.

Structure of the Standard

- **Policy:** to be defined and authorised by senior management
- **Planning:** risk assessment and control, identifying legal and other requirements, and setting objectives with programmes for their achievement
- **Implementation:** organisation, responsibilities, training and information, consultation, procedural controls, emergency planning
- **Checking:** performance measurement, auditing, incident investigation, nonconformities and corrective actions
- **Review:** by management.

Business Reasons to Consider BS OHSAS 18001

- Demonstrates health and safety management
- reassures customers about their supply chain and contractors
- can be a factor in the choice of supplier/vendor
- adds value by allowing integration and improved efficiency.

Case Law

There has not been specific case law relating to Regulation 5 of The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, or to the use or lack of management systems generally. However, an effective management system gives an organization the means to achieve all its legal compliance aims in health and safety. This is the most effective way to avoid liability and avoid being involved in case law.

Legal Duties

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 require the employer to develop and implement appropriate arrangements for effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of the preventive and protective measures. BS OHSAS provides a framework to achieve this.

Key Considerations

- Compatible with the quality and environmental standards
- helps integrate quality, safety and environmental management
- follows the classic **plan – do – check – act** model
- suitable for all types and sizes of organisation
- does not set absolute performance targets, so does not demonstrate successful performance; only demonstrates that the required elements are present
- organisations (and parts or sites within organisations) can be certified as conforming to the standard
- aims to make the actual risk control consistent with stated policy
- does not necessarily mean that existing arrangements have to change: there are many ways of conforming.

“BS OHSAS 18001 is a certified standard, allowing organisations to demonstrate their commitment to H&S management”

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