

## International management system: OHSAS 18000 on occupational health and safety

### In brief

OHSAS 18001 is a global management system on occupational health and safety. The standard is not an ISO standard, but has many components in common with ISO 9001 (quality) and ISO 14001 (environment), including its global coverage and broad scope. The OHSAS system is designed for all sectors and can be applied in all kinds of companies and organisations. OHSAS 18001 does not state specific occupational health and safety (OH&S) performance criteria. Instead, OHSAS sets requirements for an OH&S management system to enable an organisation to control its OH&S risks and improve its performance.

In 2007, the original OSHAS 18001:1999 was replaced by an updated version, BS OHSAS 18001:2007. For companies already (or about to become) certified according to OHSAS 18001:1999, a conversion period until July 2009 has been set. For companies getting involved now, the new version applies. One of the main changes in the new version is that more emphasis is put on "health", rather than "safety".

### Market impact

Up to 2007, OHSAS 18001 had been implemented by approximately 16 000 organisations in more than 80 countries, making OHSAS 18001 the most important management system for OH&S.

There is no data available on the importance of OHSAS 18001 in different sectors and industries.

### Want to know more about the market impact in your sector?

➔ Check out the websites of large companies in your sector and see what they do. Most companies report on OHSAS 18001 and other management systems on their websites. If you can't think of companies in your sector, check out relevant buyer requirements and market surveys in this database!

### Content

OHSAS 18001 was developed to be compatible with the ISO 9001 (quality) and ISO 14001 (environmental) management systems, in order to facilitate the integration of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems by organisations.

OHSAS 18001 contains the following elements:

- Policy on occupational health and safety,
- Planning,
- Implementation and operation,
- Checking and corrective action,
- Management review, and
- Continuous improvement.

To complement OHSAS 18001, the guidance document OHSAS 18002 has been published. OHSAS 18002 explains the requirements of the specification and shows how to work towards implementation and registration.

➔ [For more information](#) on OHSAS 18001 and OHSAS 18002, please see a link to BSI's information pages in the external links section.

### Monitoring

OHSAS 18001 makes it possible to certify a company's OH&S management system, which means a certification does not apply to the company, facility or product. Surveillance audits

are typically conducted on a semi-annual or annual basis, depending on the specific requirements of the certification body.

OHSAS 18001 also allows for self-declaration on compliance.

### **Organisation**

OHSAS 18001 and the guidance document 18002 were developed by 13 national standard organizations and international certification bodies, lead by the British Standards Institute (BSI).

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