

Safety Corner

What is ISO 45001?

ISO 45001:2016 *“Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use”* is an international standard intended to replace BS OHSAS 18001:2007 *“Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – Requirements.”* Like OHSAS 18001, ISO45001 specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, with guidance for its use, to enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its OH&S performance.

Adopting the same structure as ISO 9001 and ISO 14001, ISO45001 will allow the integration of the OH&S management system into the overall management system without stating specific OH&S performance criteria or giving detailed specifications for the design of a management system. It is expected that ISO45001 will have a stronger focus on the context of organizations; that is, it will require organizations to look beyond health and safety within their own facilities and to take into account the working conditions along the supply chain, as well as demanding a stronger role for top management in directing and steering OH&S. The aim is to build OH&S built into an organisation’s management structure requiring a firm commitment to safety from top management such that OH&S is a central aspect of the overall management system, without being seen as an added extra.

ISO45001 is written to be third-party auditable and is planned to publish around Oct 2016. Once it has been accepted as an official standard, those organisations certified to OHSAS 18001 may decide to obtain a certification to ISO 45001 or to other accepted standards after expiration of their existing certification. Planning should start soon for the transition and certification after 2016.

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