Safety Corner

An update on ISO 45001

We introduced ISO 45001 (the Standard) to you in 2015.

After two years of delay, the Standard was finally published on 12 March 2018 as ISO 45001:2018, occupational health and safety management systems – requirements with guidance for use.

Based on the common elements found in the ISO's management system standards, such as ISO 9001 and 14001, the Standard uses a simple plan-do-check-act (PDCA) model to provide a framework for organizations of all sizes and industries to minimise the risk of harm through a robust and effective set of processes for improving work safety.

As ISO 45001 is now released, companies currently holding OHSAS 18001 certification must migrate to the new standard by March 2021 when OHSAS 18001 will be withdrawn. To prepare for the migration, you should note the key changes of ISO 45001 over OHSAS 18001:

- ISO 45001 is process-based, while OHSAS 18001 is procedure-based
- ISO 45001 considers both risk and opportunities that may impact (either positively or negatively) the ability of the management system to deliver its intended results, including enhanced health and safety at the workplace, while OHSAS 18001 deals exclusively with risk
- ISO 45001 introduces new clauses for systematic determination and monitoring of the business context external and internal issue
- ISO 45001 introduces enhanced focus on needs and expectations for workers and other interested parties
- ISO 45001 has stronger emphasis on leadership and top management commitment to actively engage and take accountability for the effectiveness of the management system
- ISO 45001 considers procurement including outsourced processes, and contractors
- ISO 45001 strengthened focus on objectives as drivers for improvements and performance evaluation

These points represent a significant shift in the way safety and health management is perceived. Safety and health are no longer treated as a "stand alone", but must be viewed within the perspective of running a sound and sustainable organization. Although the two standards differ in their approach, a management system established in accordance with OHSAS 18001 will be a solid platform for migrating to ISO 45001 because most of the basic tools are the same.

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