



OHSAS 18001

Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems

OHSAS 18001 is an international standard for Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) management. It provides a framework for organisations to control its OH&S aspects, ensure legal compliance and to continually improve performance.

Health and safety at work is an issue affecting all businesses. Implementing an Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Management System is now a legal requirement in many countries. In addition, companies are increasingly required to report on their health and safety performance. This makes it vital to demonstrate that your organisation delivers on its policy commitments. Independent assessment and certification of your Occupational Health and Safety Management System by DNV provides assurance that you have an effective system in place.

What is the OHSAS 18001 standard?

- OHSAS 18001 is an international accepted standard for OH&S Management Systems. It is applicable to any type of organisations—large or small—within any business sector.
- It provides a framework based on the well-established management principles of: Plan-Do-Check-Act. It requires the organisation to investigate its health and safety risks related to its activities and products/services, to evaluate and control the risks, and to set clear objectives and targets to improve on its performance.

- OHSAS 18001 requires an organisation to clearly understand the OH&S legal requirements that apply.

The OHSAS 18001 standard has been designed to be compatible and harmonised with other international management system standards, especially ISO 14001 for Environmental Management Systems. Therefore OHSAS 18001 is ideal for integration with other management systems and processes.

Why is OHSAS 18001 Management System certification good for my business?

There are several benefits of applying OHSAS 18001, but the most significant are tangible and demonstrable improvements in OH&S performance and a greater level of control in the area of legal compliance.

The OHSAS 18001 standard enables your organisation to:

- Establish and continually improve an OH&S Management System to identify, control and reduce risks related to workplace hazards associated with your activities and products/services.
- Work systematically to achieve improvements in health and safety performance and prevent occurrence of accidents and incidents.
- Assure its conformance with its stated OH&S policy and demonstrate such conformance to others.
- Better meet OH&S legal compliance and corporate requirements.

Many regulatory authorities and other organisations recognise the value of an Occupational Health and Safety Management System based on OHSAS 18001, especially if the system has been externally assessed and certified by an accredited certification body.

In addition, competitive advantage may be obtained as more and more companies request health and safety information from suppliers and sub-contractors in order to conduct business with them.

How can I prepare for certification?

It is important that you and your company are committed and set clear targets for implementation and assessment.

Companies that plan well will often have an advantage and be better prepared for certification. This includes:

- Identifying health and safety requirements.
- Identifying the applicable legal requirements.
- Establishing objectives, targets, and improvement programmes.

Before certification starts, your company must demonstrate having performed internal audits and management reviews as part of the OH&S management system implementation.

Risk Based Certification™ – tailored to your company's unique needs

DNV's Risk Based Certification methodology aims to provide more value to you and your company through focused audits. We start by asking you to tell us what your most significant OH&S management risks are. Then, after discussions to agree on certain focus areas, we tailor the audit to address especially these identified processes. This is vital in assisting your company to identify key improvement areas.

By providing focused and structured information to top management on the organisation's ability to meet objectives, we offer more value than any other certification body.