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OHSAS 18001:2007- Occupation health and Safety Management System

Overview

- OHSAS is a systematic practice of identifying potential for loss, assessing the risks, making decisions on appropriate controls, implementing and then monitoring the system to control the loss.
- Occupational Health and Safety Management addresses a specific part of loss control while providing a degree of synergy and overlap in others. It forms an integral part of the risk management process and when correctly implemented and introduced, will have a profound and desired impact on organizational objectives and outputs.
- All of us are involved in risk assessment in our daily life, e.g. driving a car, crossing a busy road, buying a house, etc. involve a degree of risk which we assess in our own way.
- Assessing the risk of work place demand that we are more systematic in our approach and more defined in our conclusions.
- The actions, which must be taken following a risk assessment depend on the level of risk and will be driven by Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Standards.

Benefits

- Create the best possible working conditions across your organization
- Identify hazards and put in place controls to manage them
- Reduce workplace accidents and illness to cut related costs and downtime
- Engage and motivate staff with better, safer working conditions
- Demonstrate compliance to customers, suppliers, and regulators
- Improved reputation, better stakeholder satisfaction and trust
- Shows good corporate and social responsibility (CSR)
- Gives you a competitive edge to grow your business
- Helps you continually improve and build a more resilient organization

Approach of Standard

THE PLAN-DO-CHECK-ACT (PDCA) CYCLE

The PDCA cycle is not just applicable to OHSAS 18001, but is also suggested by the Health and Safety Executive. It is something you may need to go round more than once if you are first starting out in implementing a health and safety management system, delivering a new process/service, or implementing a change.

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Plan

1. Ensure you have the commitment of top management.
2. Define, with the authorization of top management, the company's occupational health and safety policy.
3. Planning must be completed to establish a framework for identifying hazards, the assessment of risks and the implementation of necessary control measures.
4. Legal obligations must be identified and understood, objectives set and a management programme for achieving them implemented. This entire process should be documented.

Do

Implement your Health and Safety Management System

1. Establish roles and responsibilities.
2. Develop procedures for the consultation and communication of OHS information to employees and other interested parties.
3. Document your processes and develop a system of document and data control.
4. Apply a system of operational control.
5. Establish plans and procedures for emergencies.

Check your management system and take any necessary corrective action

You should aim to continually improve your management system by:

1. Introducing performance, measuring and monitoring practices.
2. Establishing and documenting responsibility and authority for accidents, incidents, non-conformities and corrective & preventative action.
3. Establishing a procedure for records and records management.
4. Auditing and assessing the performance of the management system.
5. Performing management reviews of the system at identified and defined intervals.

ACT

By now, you should know if your system is effective in managing risk and protecting staff. Learn from accidents and incidents, ill-health data, errors and relevant experience, including from other organisations similar to your own.

If you do find any issues, the next step is to take action – the reaction somewhat shows how effective engagement has been, as it's likely you will need a response from

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management and colleagues alike. Plans, policy documents and risk assessments may need updating accordingly.

When it comes to achieving certification, internal audits are an ongoing requirement of the standard. It's therefore wise to go over the more problematic issues more regularly to both reduce risk and ensure your annual audit by your chosen Certification Body goes well.

Implementation Steps

1. Gap Analysis
2. Awareness Training
3. Training of HIRA (Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment)
4. Occupational Health and Safety Policy and Objectives Finalization
5. Documentation/Process Design
6. Documentation / Process Implementation
7. Internal Audit
8. Corrective Action to close non conformances
10. Management Review Meeting
11. Stage 1 Audit by Certification Body
12. Corrective Action to close non conformances if any
13. Stage 2 Audit by Certification Body

Cost

Cost of consultancy is ultimately determined by factors such as the organisation's size, its industry, number of employees, number of locations and choice of Certification Body.