

**:Environmental Health and Safety Management Systems
OHSAS 18001 Second Edition to Be Released**



During the summer of 2007, the second edition of OHSAS 18001, the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) for occupational health and safety (OH&S) management systems, is to be published.

Originally created to enable organizations to control occupational health and safety risks in the workplace and to improve performances, the release of the second edition is significant because it indicates the first revision to OHSAS 18001 has gained full consensus among drafters

The first edition of the world's best-known occupational health and safety standard is being revised to reflect changes contained in the 2004 edition of ISO 14001, according to Charles Corrie of the OHSAS Project Group Secretariat, which is administered by the British Standards Institution (BSI) in London.

The second edition's changes will make it easier to integrate the Occupational Health & Safety requirements of OHSAS 18001 into an existing ISO 14001 Environmental Management System (EMS) or ISO 9001/14001 Integrated Management System.

:Important changes to the second edition include

- **The new document has been changed from a Specification to a Standard, which may promote acceptance by more accreditation bodies worldwide.**
- **An established hierarchy for reducing health and safety risk.**
- **Requirements for the organization to communicate relevant information on legal and other requirements to personnel acting on its behalf and to relevant interested parties.**

The combination of Objectives and OH&S Programs into one clause.

- **Increased responsibilities for top management and the management representative.**
- **Increased communication requirements to persons acting on behalf of the organization.**
- **Added requirements for the evaluation of compliance with legal and other requirements.**
- **Added responsibility for conducting investigations of accidents and the implementation of corrective and preventive action.**
- **And added specific inputs and outputs for management review.**

Benefits of an effective occupational health and safety management system

Since OHSAS is similar in structure to ISO 9001 and 14001, it is possible for an organization

Additional benefits include:

- **Reduction of accidents resulting in death or disabilities.**
- **Reduction of the risk of major accidents occurring.**
- **Reduction of downtime.**
- **Reduction of lost revenue due to production disruption.**

OHSAS 18001 certificates are valid for three years, with surveillance audits held annually.