

PREPARING FOR OHSAS 18001 CERTIFICATION

Implementing an Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series requires an organization to investigate health and safety risks related to its activities, products and services. OHSAS 18001 is applicable to any type of organization.

Why do I need OHSAS 18001?

- Improve corporate image and credibility among stakeholders, regulators, customers, prospective clients and the public
- Ensure health and wellbeing of employees, subcontractors and public
- Gain competitive advantages
- Fulfill OH&S legal compliance and corporate requirements

The OHSAS 18001 certification process is based on the 'plan-do-check-act' principle and will typically involve a preparatory meeting, an optional pre-audit and an initial two-stage on-site audit.

GAP/Preliminary Stage

When initially considering certification, many businesses wishing to gauge 'the status of their management system and to understand the overall certification process' tend to seek a GAP/Preliminary visit which provides a very high level examination of the status of the management system. Feedback at this time from experienced DNV GL auditors helps to identify key areas requiring more attention before the business pursues the more advanced certification preparation stage i.e. Document Review - Initial Visit.

Document Review - Initial Visit

Depending on the confidence level of a business and its management systems the Document Review - Initial Visit, apart from being a Stage 1 requirement by UKAS enables a joint review of all the requirements for certification with sampling of both the defined processes and the implementation level, concluding the readiness of a business to complete the Certification Stage [UKAS Stage 2] which results in certification recommendation. The output from the DNV GL Document Review - Initial Visit Audit Report clearly identifies potential gaps in order for the business to address them to assure a successful certification visit.

The Plan-Do-Check-Act Principle

1. Plan

The planning stage will require the commitment of top management. A key requirement is to identify, control and reduce risks related to workplace hazards. Planning must be completed to establish a framework for identifying hazards and assessing the implementation of necessary control measures.

There are several publications designed to help you understand and implement an Occupational Health and Safety Management System. Legal obligations must be understood and the entire process should be documented.

2. Implement your Health and Safety Management System

This stage of the process involves implementing your Health and Safety Management System. You will need to establish roles and responsibilities to communicate Occupational Health and Safety information. You must also document your processes and establish methods for data control.

3. Check your Management System

Continuous improvement is the goal at the third stage of certification. Measurement and monitoring are key in order to take corrective action. You will also carry out audits and assessments of the performance of the management system. Finally, you will need to conduct a management review of the system.

4. Act

Gaining registration is a phased approach. This is where your OHSAS 18001 Management System will be reviewed. Periodic assessments and reviews will be conducted to ensure that your system meets the requirements

For more information please do not hesitate to contact us.

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