

OHSAS 18001:2007

What you need to know

Health and Safety questions cover a wide range of issues and have implications for everyone in the workplace. Effectively managing these issues means taking account not only of legal requirements, but also the well-being of your staff and sub-contractors in the working environment.

The new version of OHSAS 18001 has been updated to reflect developments in certification, and particularly to improve its compatibility with ISO 14001: 2004 and ISO 9001:2000. Below is a brief overview of the changes.

OHSAS 18001 now refers to itself as a **standard**, not a specification, or document, as in the earlier edition.

Many of the changes relate to changes in **terminology**:

- New definitions have been added, and existing definitions revised
- The term "tolerable risk" has been replaced by the term "acceptable risk"
- The term "accident" is no longer referenced, and has been included in the term "incident"

In terms of new **requirements**:

- A new requirement has been introduced for the consideration of the hierarchy of controls as part of OH&S planning
- new clause on the "Evaluation of compliance" has been introduced
- New requirements have been introduced for worker participation
- New requirements have been introduced for the investigation of incidents

A summary of the **eight main points** is overleaf.

AFAQ -EAQA provides certification to OHSAS 18001 using our process-based approach. Our auditors focus on practical, constructive audits and surveillances, using their industry knowledge to address your particular health and safety challenges.

Contact us for more information on how to get the most out of your **management system certification**.



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The Eight Main Changes in OHSAS 18001

OHSAS 18001:1999	OHSAS 18001: 2007	Changes
3 Terms & Definitions	3 Terms & Definitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 8 new definitions originating mainly from ISO 14001:2004 or ISO 9000:2005 ▪ 13 modified definitions to improve compatibility with ISO 900 and ISO 14001 ▪ 2 definitions removed ▪
4.1 General Requirements	4.1 General Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is stipulated that the organization shall establish, document, implement, maintain and continually improve an OH&S management and determine how it will fulfil these requirements. ▪ The organization shall define and document the scope
4.2 OH&S policy	4.2 OH&S policy	<p>Additional requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commitment to preventing personal prejudices and safety problems • Provide the framework for setting and reviewing OH&S objectives <p>Communicate policy to all persons working for or <i>on behalf of</i> the organization</p>
4.3.1 Planning hazard identification, risk assessment and determining controls	4.3.1 Hazard identification, risk assessment and determining controls	<p>More detailed on the scope of the analysis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people working on the site (not just employees) • Modifications to the OH&S management system, including temporary changes, and impacts on operations, processes, and activities. • Hazards originating from an external source • Legal obligations relating to risk assessment and implementation of necessary control measures
4.4.1 Structure and responsibility	4.4.1 Resources, roles, responsibility, accountability and authority	<p>More explicit, particularly regarding the identity of the manager appointed by senior management : must be made available to all persons working for or on behalf of the organization</p>
4.4.3 Consultation and communication	4.4.3.1 Communication & 4.4.3.2 Participation and consultation	<p>Split into two parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of notion of internal communication, communication with sub-contractors and other visitors • New or more explicit requirements to ensure that personnel working for, or on its behalf, take responsibility for aspects of OH&S over which they have control
4.4.6 Operational control	4.4.6 Operational control	<p>More consideration of management of changes, including controls related to the identified OH&S risks to and from contractors and other visitors to the place of work</p>
4.5.2 Accidents, incidents, nonconformity, corrective and preventive action	4.5.3.1 Incident investigation & 4.5.3.2 Nonconformity, corrective and preventive action	<p>Split into two sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident investigation • Nonconformity, corrective and preventive action