

ISO 45001:2018 Awareness Training

Module 1 Lesson 1: Introduction to ISO 45001:2018

Introduction

Welcome to “Introduction to ISO 45001:2018”. In this lesson we will examine international standards and introduce ISO, the International Organisation for Standardisation. We will define an occupational health and safety management system. Finally, we will introduce ISO 45001 and the related standards.

International Standards

International Standards are the backbone of our society. They ensure the safety and quality of products and services, they facilitate international trade and improve the environment in which we live. ISO International Standards ensure that products and services are safe, reliable and of good quality. For businesses, they are strategic tools that reduce costs by minimizing waste and errors and increase productivity. International standards help companies to access new markets, level the playing field with competitors and facilitate free and fair trade.

ISO, the International Organisation for Standardisation, is an independent, non-governmental international organisation with a membership of 161 national standards bodies. ISO was formed in 1947, and involves 3,368 technical bodies in standards development. Since 1947 ISO has published more than 21,000 standards, covering almost every aspect of business, technology and engineering.

The focus of this course is ISO 45001. This is the first ISO standard for occupational health and safety, previously organisations would have either subscribed to OHSAS 18001 or to the ILO-OSH requirements. ISO 45001 is related to a number of international standards on occupational health and safety management, developed to help companies effectively manage the safety elements in their organisation which can be implemented to protect employees and the public. They are not specific to any one industry and can be applied to organisations of any size.

Occupational Health and Safety Management System

An occupational Health and Safety management system is a set of processes and practices that enable an organization to reduce the risk of safety incidents and increase the health and wellbeing of its employees.

More formally, OHSMS is " a framework that allows an organization to consistently identify and control its health and safety risks, reduce the potential for incidents, help achieve compliance with health and safety legislation and continually improve its performance"

Occupational Health and Safety Management systems serve many purposes, but all would have six key elements at their heart:

- A safety plan
- Policies, procedures and processes
- Training and induction
- Monitoring
- Supervision
- Reporting

ISO 45001 and Related Standards

The ISO 45001 family of standards consists of:

- **ISO 45001** Occupational health and safety management systems - Requirements with guidance for use.
- **ISO 9000:2015** Quality management systems - Fundamentals and vocabulary
- **ISO 9001** Quality management systems - Requirements
- **ISO 14001** Environmental management systems - Requirements with guidance for use
- **ISO 19011** Guidelines for auditing management systems
- **ISO 20400** Sustainable procurement - Guidance
- **ISO 26000** Guidance on social responsibility
- **ISO 31000** Risk management - Guidelines
- **ISO 37500** Guidance on outsourcing
- **ISO 39001** Road traffic safety (RTS) management systems - Requirements with guidance for use
- **ISO Guide 73:2009** Risk management — Vocabulary
- **IEC 31010** Risk management — Risk assessment techniques

While each of these standards is important, ISO 45001:2018 is the only occupational health and safety standard which companies and organisations can certify.

ISO 45001 was first introduced in 2018, but was based on the OHSAS 18001:2007.

ISO 45001:2018 is based on the plan-do-check-act methodology and provides a process orientated approach to documenting and reviewing the structure, responsibilities, and processes required to achieve effective environmental management in an organisation.

Changes introduced in the 2018 edition are intended to ensure that ISO 45001 continues to adapt to the changing environments in which organisations operate.

Some of the key updates in ISO 45001:2018 include the introduction of new terminology, restructuring some of the information, an emphasis on risk-based thinking to enhance the application of the process approach, improved applicability for services, and increased leadership requirements.

The standard also extended requirements on the participations of workers, communication and on procurement via outsourced processes and contractors.

Summary

In this lesson, we examined international standards and introduced ISO, the International Organisation for Standardisation. We defined an Occupational health and safety management system. Finally, we introduced the ISO 45001 standard and related standards.