

ISO 45001 Purpose Explained

This International Standard specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, with guidance for its use, to enable an organization to proactively improve its OH&S performance in preventing injury and ill-health.

ISO 45001 is applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- a) establish an OH&S management system to eliminate or minimize those OH&S risks associated with its activities;
- b) establish, implement, maintain and continually improve an OH&S management system and improve its OH&S performance;
- c) assure itself of its conformity with applicable legal requirements and other requirements to which it subscribes;
- d) demonstrate conformity with the requirements of this International Standard.

ISO 45001 is intended to be applicable to any organization regardless of its size, type and nature. All the requirements in the standard are intended to be integrated into the organization's management system and its business processes. The extent of the application will depend on factors such as the context in which the organization operates and the requirements of its interested parties.

Depending on an organization's determined scope for its OH&S management system, this International Standard requires the organization to address:

- a) the OH&S risks to persons working under its control (e.g. directors, other executives, managers, supervisors, workers and contractors). For some situations, the organization may also choose, or be required by applicable legal requirements, to address the needs of other persons affected by the activities of the organization, but who are not engaged in "occupational" activities for the organization (such as some types of visitors or customers, neighbouring people or passers-by), through its OH&S management system; and
- b) the OH&S risks associated with all sites and work locations under its control, and to consider and take appropriate preventive measures to address the OH&S risks associated with workplaces that are not under its control, such as a customer's premises.

This International Standard enables an organization to choose to address other aspects of health and safety, beyond "occupational" health and safety (e.g. employee wellness/wellbeing) through its OH&S management system. The organization could also be required by applicable legal requirements to address such issues.

This International Standard does not state specific criteria for OH&S performance, nor is it prescriptive about the design of an OH&S management system.

This International Standard does not address issues such as product safety, property damage or environmental impacts. It is however an integrated management system compatible with ISO 9001 and 14001. It uses the Annex SL framework (see separate article "Annex SL Explained")

