

45001 update

The world's first occupational health and safety international standard is currently being developed. ISO 45001 brings occupational health and safety management and continual improvement into the heart of an organisation and is being developed to:

- enable organisations to improve their occupational health and safety performance
- prevent work related injury and/or ill health
- provide safe and healthy workplaces.

ISO has confirmed a provisional publication date of 30 November for the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) of ISO 45001 and publication of the final standard is likely to be in the first half of 2018.

OHSAS 18001 will be withdrawn on publication of ISO 45001 and organisations currently certified to OHSAS 18001 will have a three year period to migrate to ISO 45001. The CQI will continue to keep its ATP's updated with the development of the standard.

Once the FDIS is published you can expect:

- the CQI's policy statement regarding migration arrangements for certificated auditors
- whitepaper interpreting and analysing the new standard
- revised course criteria for existing OHS courses
- course criteria for a migration course

Key features of ISO 45001

ISO 45001 is being developed to:

- Enable organisations to improve their occupational health and safety performance
- Prevent work related injury and/or ill health
- Provide safe and healthy workplaces.

While the exact precise content of the standard will not be known until the publication of the Final Draft International Standard (FDIS), at the end of November, we are confident of the following key features:

1. Adoption of Annex SL

ISO 45001 adopts Annex SL, thus sharing a high-level structure, identical core text, and terms and definitions with recently revised ISO management systems standards, e.g. ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015.

The implications of this are significant. The common structure, content, and themes (e.g. risk-based thinking, process approach, leadership and top management commitment) will greatly support organisations wishing to align or integrate their management systems.

2. Top management commitment, risk-based thinking, and process approach

Top management is accountable for OH&S management and needs to demonstrate both leadership and commitment; indeed this is explicitly identified as a critical success factor.

Risk-based thinking and adopting a process approach are both emphasised through-out the standard.

These are consistent with Annex SL management systems standards, including ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015, and considered essential to the success of the OH&S management system.

3. Consultation and worker participation

Consultation and participation of workers participation in identifying hazards and risks, and the development and operation of the OH&S management system. Consultation and participation of workers may extend beyond operating the OH&S management system into its design review, and improvement.

This is also considered essential to the success of the OH&S management system.

4. Preventing ill-health and injury

An organisation must take into account factors with a potential to cause injury and ill-health. This explicitly includes the mental and cognitive condition of people, as well as their physical condition.

Causes of ill-health and injury can be immediate (e.g. accidents), or long-term, such as repeated exposure to harmful substances, or a stressful working environment.