SAFETY MEMO

September 12th, 2022 – An Insight into ISO 45001: 2018 – Occupational Health And Safety Management Systems

Background

Over two million deaths are associated with work-related accidents and illness every year worldwide which accounts for just over 6,000 deaths every day worldwide (International Labour Organisation, 2020).

Occupational health and safety can be a major challenge for many organizations. Regardless of the size, nature of the business, or geographical location, organizations have an obligation to protect their employees and provide a safe and healthy working environment. An organization should identify the potential health and safety risks present in the workplace and take actions to keep workers free from harm.

Occupational safety focuses on potential safety hazards that may lead to injury. Occupational health explores potential health issues such as occupational medicine, occupational hygiene, and primary health care, including wellness of workers.

ISO What?

International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is an independent, nongovernmental, international organization that brings together experts to share their knowledge to develop voluntary relevant international standards to provide solutions to global issues and challenges.
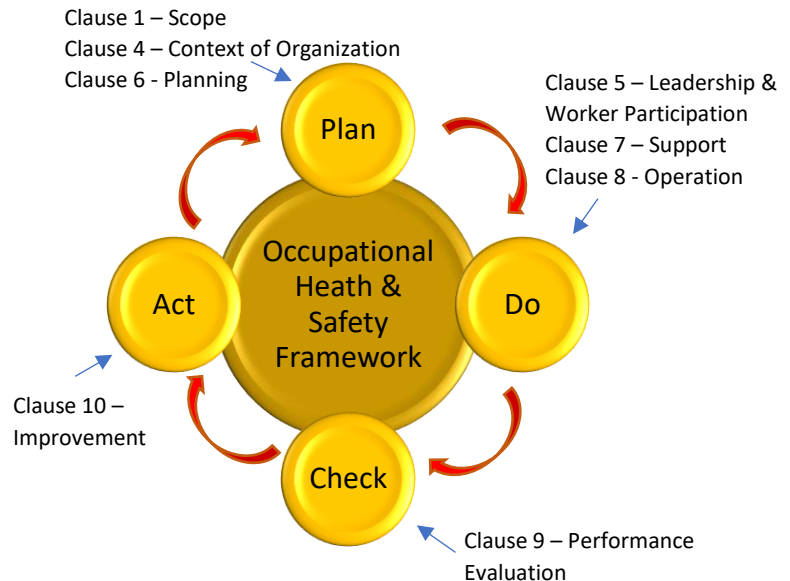
ISO 45001:2018 is the International Standard on Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems. It is an offshoot of the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OSAS) 18001, discontinued in 2018, and replaced by ISO 45001. The latter provides a standardized framework for establishing an Occupational Health and Safety Management System within an organization.

Many fatalities and work-related injuries and illness could be avoided by implementing a sustainable and structured framework for managing occupational health and safety. By embedding ISO 45001 into an organization's operations, these key benefits could be achieved:

- Provides systematic approach for senior leadership to assess OH&S risks and opportunities, monitor and review safety performance, and set objectives for continuous improvement.
- Improves safety culture, minimize OH&S risks, embed best practices through worker participation in identifying hazards and reducing risks by implementing controls.

ISO 45001: 2018 APPROACH

The foundation of ISO 45001 is established on the typical Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) approach, similar to other ISO standards. A mapping of the ten clauses of ISO 45001:2018 against the PDCA cycle is shown below:

Clause 1 – Scope
Clause 4 – Context of Organization
Clause 6 - Planning

Clause 5 – Leadership & Worker Participation
Clause 7 – Support
Clause 8 - Operation

Occupational Heath & Safety Framework

Plan
Do
Check
Act

Clause 10 – Improvement

Clause 9 – Performance Evaluation

Note: Clause 2 and Clause 3 of ISO 45001:2018 are the Normative References and Terms & Definitions respectively.

The Way Forward

ISO 45001 is compatible with other standards such as ISO 9001:2015 which focuses on the Quality Management Systems and ISO 14001:2015 which focuses on the Environmental Management Systems. Implementing ISO 45001 is a recognition for achieving an international standard benchmark for Occupational Health and Safety and demonstrating organizational leadership towards safety-driven culture.

Reference

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