What is OHSAS 18001?

OHSAS 18001 is an internationally recognised occupational, health and safety series (OHSAS) management standard. OHSAS 18001:2007 (current version of OHSAS 18001) provides a set of standardised requirements for an occupational health and safety management system (OHSMS).

OHSAS 18001 provides a framework for occupational health and safety management best practice to aid organisations to identify, minimise and control health & safety risks in the workplace, conform to Health & Safety legislation and protect the well-being of staff while at work.

Good health and safety management is critical for businesses to survive today’s market

How to establish an OHSAS 18001 Occupation health and safety management system?

To meet the requirements of OHSAS 18001 an organisation must:

- Formulate an Occupational, Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) with the establishment of a occupational, health and safety (OHS) manual in which the scope of OHSMS is determined
- Establish an occupational, health and safety policy and OHS objectives and programmes
- Ensure document and record control
- Implement and maintain a procedure to identify hazards, assess risk and determine controls in the workplace
- Maintain procedures to ensure applicable occupational, health and safety legislation is identified, communicated within and compliance assessed
- Define resources, roles, responsibilities, accountability and authority with regard to the OHSMS

- Implement an adequate occupational, health and safety communication, participation and consultation process
- Maintain good operational control
- Plan emergency preparedness and response
- Meet strict criteria in relation to incident investigation
- Identify and deal with OHS non conformities by applying corrective and preventative action
- Monitor and measure the occupational, health and safety performance of the organisation
- Audit the system and review the system at a management level periodically

The benefits of OHSAS 18001 certification

By achieving certification to OHSAS 18001 your organisation will be able to reap numerous benefits:

- Improving corporate image and credibility among stake holders, regulators, customers, prospective clients and the public
- Adoption of international best practice in relation to risk management
- Ensure health and well-being of employees, subcontractors and the public
- Minimisation of liability of employers through adoption of proactive rather than reactive controls
- Ensuring legislative awareness and compliance
- Reducing accident and incident rates by reducing and elimination workplace hazards
- Improving the incident investigation process
- Improving employee motivation through the provision of a safer workplace and participation process

For further information or advice on OHSAS 18001:2007 or the certification process please contact Certification Europe’s offices in Ireland on + 353 (0) 1 64 29 300 and UK on +44 (0)28 9073 7913.