ISO 45001 on occupational health and safety has been approved for Draft International Standard public consultation

By Elizabeth Gasiorowski-Denis on 12 February 2016

ISO 45001, one of the world's much anticipated standards for occupational health and safety (OHS), has been approved as a Draft International Standard.

Every 15 seconds, a worker dies from a work-related accident or disease, and 153 people experience a work-related injury. These represent an enormous burden for organizations and society as a whole, costing over 2.3 million deaths a year, not to mention the more than 300 million non-fatal accidents*.

Now, with ISO 45001 at the Draft International Standard (DIS) stage, the world is one step closer to a robust and effective set of processes for improving work safety in global supply chains. Designed to help organizations of all sizes and industries, the future standard is expected to reduce workplace injuries and illnesses around the world.

https://www.youtube.com/embed/LcNtwQYmYKo?fs=1&autoplay=1&rel=0

More than 70 countries are directly involved in the creation of this important document, being developed by project committee ISO/PC 283, *Occupational health and safety management systems*, with the British Standards Institution (BSI) serving as the committee secretariat.

"Implementing a strong occupational health and safety management system helps organizations reduce accidents and ill health, avoid costly prosecutions, perhaps even reduce insurance costs, as well as create a culture of positivity in the organization when its people see that their needs are being taken into account," explains David Smith, Chair of the committee. "Wide adoption of ISO 45001 should reduce the horror stories in the media of poor OHS management leading to loss of life, injury and large-scale disasters, as seen in the factory buildings around the world."

ISO 45001 is based on the common elements found in all of ISO's management system standards, assuring a high level of compatibility with the new versions of ISO 9001, *Quality management systems*, and ISO 14001, *Environmental management systems*. It uses a simple Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) model, which provides a framework for organizations to plan what they need to put in place in order to minimize the risk of harm. The measures should address concerns that can lead to long-term health issues and absence from work, as well as those that give rise to accidents.

Now that ISO 45001 has advanced to the DIS stage, national member bodies of ISO have been invited to vote and comment on the text of the standard during the three-month balloting period. If the outcome is positive, the modified document may then be circulated to ISO members as a Final Draft International Standard (FDIS). In the event of an affirmative vote, ISO 45001 is expected to be published as an International Standard by late 2016 / early 2017.

For more information on how ISO makes and reviews standards, see our page on standards development.

For more information on the Draft International Stage and how you can contribute, contact your ISO member.

Web site
http://www.intertek.com/business-assurance/iso-45001

ISO 45001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System

ISO 45001, ISO's new Occupational Health and Safety Management System standard designed to replace OHSAS 18001, will be published in 2017.

The new standard is designed to help organisations around the world ensure the health and safety of the people who make their business possible.

This standard is set to replace the popular OHSAS 18001 standard, with the overall purpose remaining the improvement of occupational health and safety performance. ISO 45001 will more easily integrate with other ISO Management Systems standards including ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015.

ISO 45001 will require an organization to look beyond its immediate health and safety issues and take into account what the wider society expects of it. Organisations will have to think about their contractors and suppliers, as well as the effects their activities have on neighbouring communities.

As globalisation and global trade continue to escalate, organisations' stakeholders are expecting organisations to be ethical in every aspect of their business, especially in the way they treat employees. ISO 45001 will give organisations an internationally recognised occupational health and safety standard to follow. This standard provides the specification for formal, systematic analysis and management of risk, management of regulatory compliance, promotion of safer work practices, and evaluation of occupational health and safety performance. This systematic approach facilitates a decrease in the number of incidents and ultimately less disruption to business.

In order to comply with international needs and requirements, more than 50 countries and organisations including the International Labour Organization (ILO) have been involved in the creation of ISO 45001. The aim is to provide a tool that can be used by any organisation, in any industry, anywhere in the world.

Organisations currently certified to OHSAS 18001, can remain so through the transition period offered after the publication of the ISO 45001 standard. Intertek will work with all current customers to ensure a smooth transition to ISO 45001 when the time comes.

For more information on the changes from the International Organisation of Standards and to purchase the Committee Draft of the standard please visit ISO.org.

Check back with us for more information about the ISO 45001 as the release date approaches in mid-2017.