

## **OHSAS 18001:2007**

**By Agustín Sánchez-Toledo**  
**Occupational Health and Safety Manager at AENOR**

**Technical Specification OHSAS 18001 has been revised and published. More compatibility with ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 or new requirements in order to prioritise control planning are some of the new features included in the text.**

Using ISO 9000 standard as starting point, we could define occupational health and safety management systems as those systems which enable us to run and control an organisation in terms of health and safety of employees. It was not until the 1990's that this term, widely used today, started to be used by organisations, legislators, interested parties and society as a whole.

OHSAS<sup>1</sup> specification came out back then in order to respond to the different initiatives emerging in the marketplace which were in need of a document of universally recognised prestige that would enable organisations to design, evaluate and certify their occupational health and safety management systems.

OHSAS sets the requirements for a system enabling an organisation to control its Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) risks and improve its performance. All requirements have been considered for their incorporation into any OH&S management system. The extension of its application relies on factors such as the organisation's OH&S policy, the nature of its activities, and the risks and complexity of its operations.

### BACKGROUND TO OHSAS 18001

- 1996: AENOR publishes UNE 81900 EX Standards.
- 1998: ISO does not support the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in the development of recommendations on Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems.
- 1999: OHSAS 18001 specification is published.
- 2000: OHSAS 18002 is published, providing guidelines for the implementation of OHSAS 18001.
- 2001: Publication of ILO-OSH guidelines relating to Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems.
- 2004: ISO 14001: 2004 Standard is published (it was a call for revision of OHSAS 18001).
- 2005: Publication of ANSI Z10 (risk management document).

The publication of ILO-OSH guidelines relating to Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems, of ISO 14001 Standard and ANSI Z10 risk management document, together with the large number of countries (82) which have adopted OHSAS specification as reference document, or standard (42), have made it necessary for OHSAS 18001:1999 to be systematically reviewed (SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF OHSAS 18001/18002).

OHSAS 18001:1999 Technical Specification was not prepared or published following the usual mechanisms involved in the preparation of standards. Nevertheless, and due to the abovementioned reasons, it was decided that a revision of OHSAS 18001:1999 was to be performed by the group responsible for its development, *OHSAS Project Group*, of which AENOR is part since its constitution back in 1998. Today, the group is formed by 20 experts from United States, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Ireland, Spain, Denmark, Mexico, United Kingdom and Norway.

---

<sup>1</sup> OHSAS: Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series

After worldwide public enquiry, the OHSAS Project Group developed a first working draft taking into account the comments submitted (490) which were analysed at the meeting hosted by AENOR in Madrid at the end of October 2006. The result of this meeting was a second draft which was analysed and completed with the 549 comments from 24 countries during the meeting held last March in Shanghai.

After reaching consensus, it was decided that the new version of OHSAS 18001:2007 was to be published. In addition, a meeting schedule was agreed for the revision of OHSAS 18002 (under way at the moment), as well as the beginnings of an agreement to prepare a guide –which could be OHSAS 18003– for auditing this type of systems.

Most of the comments received and analysed by the OHSAS Project Group are still in the process of being aligned with ISO 14001, ILO-OSH and ANSI Z10 in terms of scope, definitions, continuous improvement, involvement of people, as well as in the process of establishing correspondence between OHSAS 18001 and ILO-OSH:2001.

If we compare the work carried out with what it took to develop revisions of ISO 9000 or ISO 14000, the OHSAS Project Group has managed to bring forward the same amount of work with half of the people involved in record time. It took about four years to develop the revision of ISO 9000 Standard; “The same work has been carried out here in just six months” said Charles Corrie, Secretary of OHSAS Project Group, during the meeting held in Madrid in October 2006.

### **OHSAS 18001:2007**

After the technical revision of the first edition of OHSAS 18001:1999, the new version replacing the former one has been published.

OHSAS 18001 has been developed to be compatible with ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004 management systems, as well as to enable organisations to integrate quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems, provided they wish to do so.

The main changes with regard to the previous edition are the following:

- The importance of “health” has been given greater emphasis.
- The complete model of the “P-D-C-A” diagram only appears in the introduction and there are no sectoral diagrams at the beginning of each clause (P-D-C-A).
- New definitions have been added, and existing ones have been revised, (e.g. acceptable risk, audit, corrective action, document, incident, interested parties, performance, policy, workplace, preventive action, procedure, record, ...)
- Significant improvements have been incorporated in order for it to be aligned with ISO 14001:2004, as well as improvements for a better compatibility with ISO 9001:2000.
- The term “tolerable risk” has been replaced by the term “acceptable risk”.
- The term “accident” has been included within the term “incident”.
- The definition of the word “hazard” no longer refers to “damage to property or damage to the workplace environment”.
- The requirements of OH&S management objectives and programme(s) have been unified in line with ISO 14001:2004.
- New requirements have been introduced for consideration when planning risk control priorities.
- A new requirement has been added for the “evaluation of legal compliance”.
- New requirements have been introduced for participation and consultation.
- New requirements have been introduced for the investigation of incidents.

### **Requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System**

OHSAS 18001: 2007	REQUIREMENTS OF THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
<b>4.1</b>	<b>General Requirements</b>
<b>4.2</b>	<b>OH&amp;S Policy</b>
<b>4.3</b>	<b>Planning</b>
4.3.1	Identification of hazards, risk assessment and control
4.3.2	Legal and other requirements
4.3.3	Objectives and Programme(s)
<b>4.4</b>	<b>Implementation and operation</b>
4.4.1	Resources, roles, responsibility, accountability and authority
4.4.2	Competence, training and awareness
4.4.3	Communication, participation and consultation
4.4.3.1	Communication
4.4.3.2	Participation and Consultation
4.4.4	Documentation
4.4.5	Document control
4.4.6	Operational control
4.4.7	Emergency preparedness and response
<b>4.5</b>	<b>Verification</b>
4.5.1	Performance monitoring and measurement
4.5.2	Evaluation of legal compliance
4.5.3	Investigation of incidents, Nonconformities, Corrective and Preventive Action
4.5.3.1	Investigation of incidents
4.5.3.2	Nonconformities, Corrective and Preventive Action
4.5.4	Control of records
4.5.5	Internal Audit
4.6	<b>Management review</b>

### Certification worldwide and at national level

In the last two years, the demand for certification according to OHSAS 18001 has grown considerably, and in almost every country the number of certificates has doubled.

### OHSAS 18001 IN FIGURES

	2003	2004	2005
<b>TOTAL CERTIFICATES WORLDWIDE</b>	3 898	11 091	15 815
<b>TOTAL CERTIFICATES IN SPAIN</b>	-----	111 (1%)	350 (2.2%)
<b>AENOR</b>	0	24 (22%)	135 (39%)

Source: BSI. Results of the survey into the availability of OH&S Standards and Certificates, up until 2005-12-31

Currently, AENOR has issued 360 OHSAS 18001 Certificates to entities from all over the world wishing to offer safe workplaces to their employees, manage occupational risks in a responsible way and meet legal requirements.