

PN-N-18001:2004/ OHSAS 18001:2007/ ISO 45001 – OHS certification program

Occupational safety is currently the highest standard in developed companies. Conscious entrepreneurs lower the costs related to the safety through the implementation of processes which contribute to minimising the number of absences caused by accidents, occupational diseases and breakdowns and disasters. The employees' awareness concerning their rights related to safety is increasing.

According to the rule "better safe than sorry", collective and personal protective measures are introduced. OHS procedures and instructions are also implemented. One should remember, however, that the factor that has the most influence on the safety is a human.

For this reason, the implementation and certification of the OHS management system becomes the most effective tool ensuring occupational safety. The OHS management system compliant with one of the three standards mentioned above is an integral part of the organisation management.

One should remember that the basic rules related to the occupational safety result from legal requirements, and the safety system is a tool facilitating the implementation and supervision of the rules.

The benefits of the implementation and certification of the Occupational Health and Safety Management System:

- Improvement of the company's reliability as a socially responsible organisation.
- Increasing the safety of employees through limiting the hazards at work posts and those resulting from disasters.
- Meeting clients' requirements and expectations.
- Clarification of a legal status – enhancing the supervision of compliance with the applicable legal requirements and obligations as well as periodic compliance evaluation.
- Clear identification of the scope of system application.
- Quick detection and removal of potential incompatibilities and hazards.

Moreover, in the case of ISO 45001 standard:

- Specifying and raising awareness of the organisation context.
- Specifying risks and chances related to the system, and not only to the workstation.
- Identification of involved and interested parties.

To sum up: if the improvement of your employees' safety, the improvement of your company's image and cost-effectiveness are important for you, then the implementation of the OHS management system should be the primary objective for your organisation.

The structure of the management system according to ISO 45001, ISO 9001 and ISO 14001 is analogous. The differences concern mainly the criteria for setting objectives. Quality management systems are focused on clients' needs. Environmental management systems concern mainly issues being of interest to the society and other external parties and OHS management systems refer to employees and supervisory bodies.

CERTIFICATION

The OHS management system certification audit in accordance with ISO 45001, PN-N-18001 or OHSAS 18001 is conducted on-site, at a company being certified, in two stages. The first stage of audit covers the factory inspection and documentation check, and the second stage covers the actual certification.

The purpose of the first stage is an initial overview of the OHS management system to be performed by DEKRA audit team in the aspect of occupational safety. On the basis of the results of the first audit stage, a plan for the second stage is developed.

Before conducting the certification audit in your organisation, the following conditions must be met:

- the OHS management system must have been in place for at least 3 months;
- the internal audit system must be effective and efficient;
- the internal audit system must be effective and efficient; at least one system evaluation must be conducted by the company management.

In the second audit stage it is verified whether the OHS policy adopted is observed and whether the OHS management system is appropriate to meet the objectives of the OHS policy. In the case any inconsistencies are identified, their removal will be necessary before issuing a certificate. The audit duration depends on the size of a given organisation, that is, the number of employees and locations where the company conducts its activity.

SUPERVISION AUDITS

During the 3-year certification validity period, annual supervision audits are conducted. The purpose of the first and second supervision audits is to check whether:

- any nonconformities determined during the previous audit are removed;
- any organisational changes took place in the company;
- the OHS management system changed;
- the DEKRA certificate and mark are used in accordance with their intended use;
- any action is taken with regard to changes in the reference standard, acts of law.

RENEWAL AUDIT (RECERTIFICATION)

Renewal audit is necessary to ensure the extension of the certification validity for another 3 years.

Renewal audit should be conducted before the certificate expires.

The requirements of a renewal audit are similar to those of a certification audit.