

ISO 45001:2018 – Support

The International Organization of Standardization (ISO) publishes the ISO 45001:2018 standard, *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) – Requirements with guidance for use*. ISO 45001:2018 is the world's international standard for occupational safety and health (S&H). The aim of the standard is to provide a healthy and safe working environment to drive solutions to improve organizational safety performance, assess and eliminate risk, and increase productivity.

Support is a clause within the ISO 45001:2018 standard. This clause makes sure organizations provide adequate resources and processes to implement and sustain the OHSMS. This clause is important because it helps organizations execute the OHSMS requirements and ensure the OHSMS functions effectively.

Support helps organizations ensure they can provide back-end maintenance of the OHSMS through:



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- Determination and use of processes to acquire resources needed, both internal and external, to support the OHSMS
- Determination of competence requirements and expectations for workers affecting performance of the OHSMS
- Worker awareness of S&H policies and objectives, OHSMS participation requirements, workplace hazards, stop work procedures, and lessons learned, as relevant to their assigned duties and tasks
- Processes to communicate S&H information and continuous improvement efforts, both internally and externally—who, what, when, why, where, how?
- Documentation processes to support OHSMS implementation and operation, including how to create, update, and control documents.

A successful OHSMS needs support not only from all levels of workers, but especially a devoted group of individuals overseeing and managing the OHSMS implementation and sustainment. Coordination with outside personnel who affect the OHSMS is also important. An OHSMS lacking support in any of these areas is unlikely to achieve long-term, sustained success.

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