

The Case for a Safety Management System

Educating Leaders on the Benefits of Pursuing an SMS

Any organization, regardless of its size or complexity, can implement a safety management system (SMS). Organizations frequently have to “make their case” to leadership before choosing and implementing an SMS. Making a case for an SMS helps your leadership understand what an SMS is and realize how an SMS can help your organization achieve excellence in safety and health (S&H).

WHAT IS A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

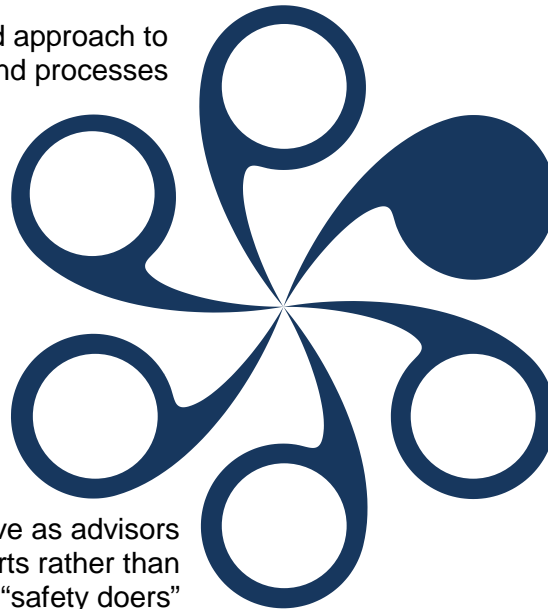
An SMS changes the way an organization manages S&H – moving from a traditional, reactive approach focused on compliance with regulations to a predictive, proactive approach, focusing on the effectiveness of S&H programs and processes, mishap reduction, and continuous improvement

A performance-based approach to managing S&H programs and processes

Organization-wide processes aimed at mitigating S&H risks

Strong support and involvement from leadership, management, and employees

S&H professionals serve as advisors and technical experts rather than the “safety doers”



Leaders make informed decisions before injuries and illnesses

Achievement of continuous improvement through the Plan-Do-Check-Act process

WHY DO I NEED A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

- **DoD REQUIREMENTS:** Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6055.01, *DoD Safety and Occupational Health Program*, requires DoD organizations implement an SMS across all military operations/activities
- **SERVICE REQUIREMENTS:** Some DoD Components and Commands require the use of a specific SMS model
- **29 CFR 1960 REQUIREMENTS:** 29 CFR 1960.8, *Agency Responsibilities*, directs management to provide a safe and healthful workplace [which can be better achieved with an SMS]



WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

- Improved mission readiness, productivity, and employee morale
- Increased understanding of S&H requirements and expectations
- Reductions in preventable injuries and illnesses
- Decreases in costs related to the Federal Employee Compensation Act
- Provides a safer, more efficient workplace through structured processes and procedures
- Reduces absenteeism and employee turnover
- Enhances the S&H culture of leadership, management, and employees
- Reduces hazards and risks, including unsafe and unhealthful behaviors
- Enhances the communication of S&H information using a cooperative approach
- Forces business operation changes through continuous improvement
- Reinforces leadership commitment
- Enhances health and well-being at work and home for employees and their families
- Assists in the achievement of S&H objectives
- Drives socially responsible decisions and sustainable operations
- Helps comply with regulations while ensuring efficient use of resources
- Facilitates organizational capabilities to prevent system failures
- Detects/mitigates significant risks not specifically covered by regulations
- Increases confidence in safety risk controls
- Integrates S&H into all business processes
- Removal from OSHA's targeted inspection list [OSHA VPP]
- Compatible with other management systems [ISO 9001 & ISO 14001]
- Helps organizations interface with external regulators [OSHA, Joint Commission, FAA]

OSHA = Occupational Safety & Health Administration

ISO = International Organization of Standardization

FAA = Federal Aviation Administration

For more information on choosing and implementing an SMS, see the SMCX one pagers:

“First Steps When Choosing an SMS”
“First Steps when Implementing an SMS”

For additional information on the SMCX, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at <https://smcscx.org/>.