

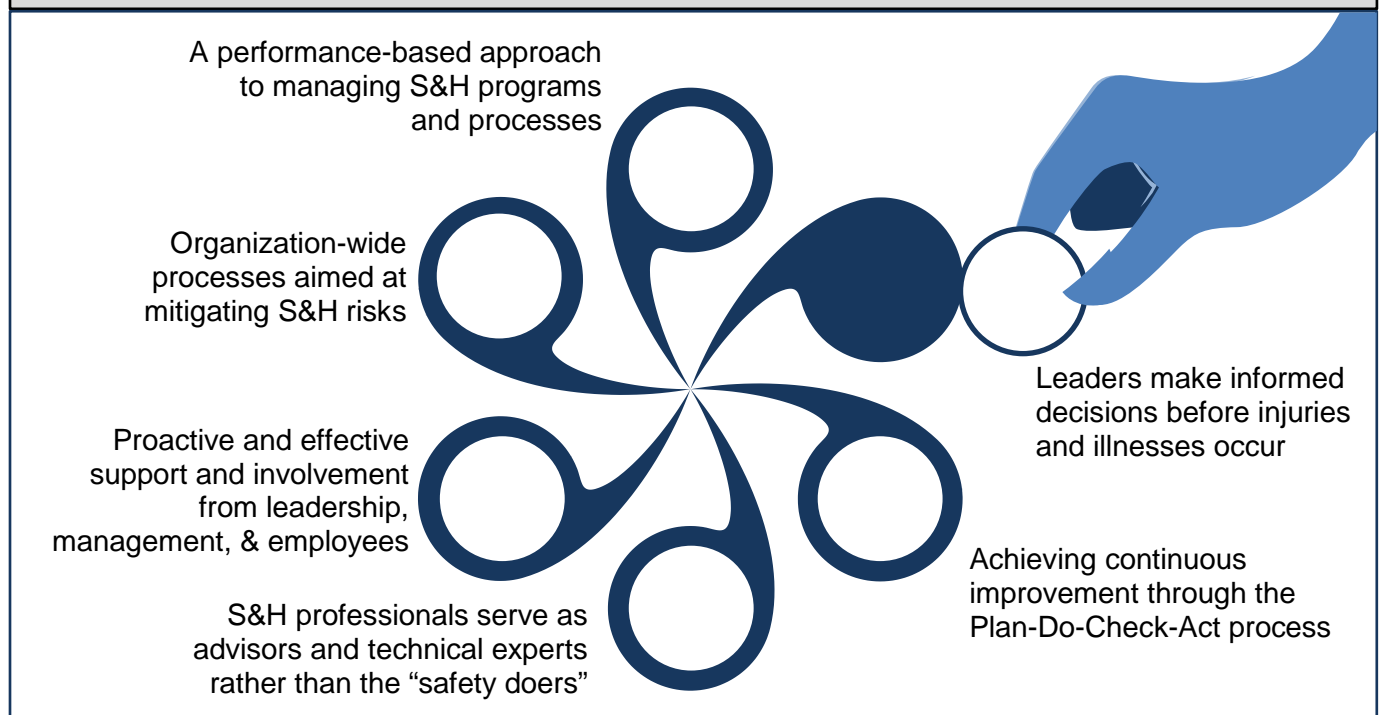
The Case for a Safety Management System

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



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 implementation 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 SOH processes and procedures
Reduces absenteeism and employee turnover
Enhances the S&H culture of the organization
Reduces hazards and risks, including unsafe and unhealthful behaviors
Enhances the communication of S&H information using a cooperative approach
Forces business operation changes to include SOH
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 proactive SOH 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/>.