

# The Case for a Safety Management System

## WHAT IS A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

A safety management system (SMS) is a systematic approach to managing safety and occupational health (SOH). An SMS establishes organization-wide processes aimed at mitigating SOH risks. It focuses on achieving continuous improvement and sustainability through the Plan-Do-Check-Act process.

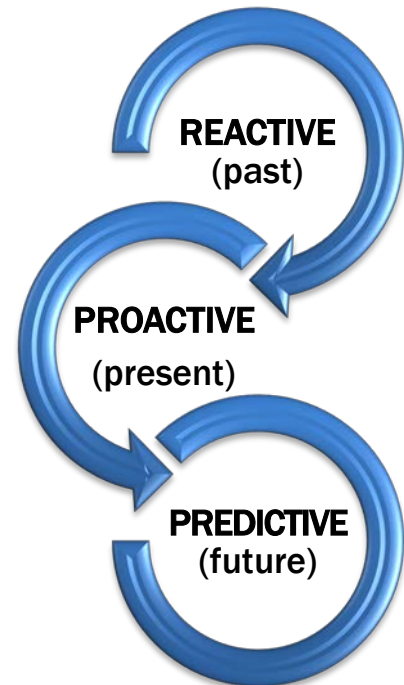
An SMS integrates SOH into all aspects of the organization. The intent of an SMS is to move beyond the traditional approach of SOH management focused on compliance with SOH regulations. Transitioning from a compliance approach involves participation in and commitment to SOH from top leadership, management, and employees, which influences the SOH culture.

An SMS is scalable, meaning any organization can implement an SMS, regardless of its size and complexity. Organizations wanting to maximize opportunities to continually improve SOH will find an SMS beneficial.



## WHY DO I NEED A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

<p><b>DoD Requirements</b></p> <p>Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 6055.01, <i>DoD Safety and Occupational Health Program</i>, requires DoD to implement an SMS addressing all management levels across all military operations/activities</p>	<p><b>Service Requirements</b></p> <p>Some DoD Components, Services or Agencies, and Commands require the use of a specific SMS model</p>
<p><b>Proactive &amp; Predictive Concept</b></p> <p>An SMS changes the way an organization thinks – moving from a reactive approach to a proactive and predictive approach, preventing mishaps and mitigating hazards</p>	<p><b>29 CFR 1960 Requirements</b></p> <p>DoDI 6055.01 and <a href="#">29 CFR 1960.8</a>, <i>Agency Responsibilities</i>, direct management to provide a safe and healthful workplace [which can be achieved by implementing an SMS]</p>



## WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

• Improved mission readiness, productivity, and employee morale
• Increased understanding of SOH 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 SOH culture of leadership, management, and employees
• Reduces hazards and risks, including unsafe and unhealthful behaviors
• Enhances the communication of SOH 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 SOH 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 SOH into all business processes
• Removal from OSHA's targeted inspection list [OSHA VPP]
• Compatible with other management systems [ISO 9001 & ISO 14001]
• Enhances the interface between external regulators and the organization [e.g., OSHA, Joint Commission, FAA]

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

Check out the SMCX One Pager "First Steps When Choosing an SMS" too.