



Health and Safety on the road and beyond

A whitepaper on the benefits of integrating
BS ISO 39001 and BS OHSAS 18001

Introduction

After its publication, the BS OHSAS 18000 series quickly gained popularity across the globe – with a recent BS OHSAS Standards and Certificates Survey indicating that more than 127 countries are currently using the standard. That means more and more companies around the world are making health and safety in the workplace a top priority.

Many of these organizations are directly and indirectly linked to road traffic safety, and although risk assessment is a component of BS OHSAS 18001, accidents and deaths on the road are globally still increasing at an alarming rate. By implementing BS ISO 39001 – the internationally recognized standard for road traffic safety

– alongside BS OHSAS 18001, organizations can take a holistic approach to their occupational health and safety management systems. With these two best-practice systems in place, employers can help protect their workers in the traditional workplace and on the road.

The benefits of **BS OHSAS 18001**

Organizations competing in today's ever-evolving environment have many challenges to conquer when it comes to health and safety in the workplace. They are expected to strive towards zero accidents and need to stay up to date and compliant with legislation to avoid hefty fines and prosecutions. If unmanaged health and safety issues do occur, they can damage an organization's reputation with both customers and investors, while unforeseen absenteeism can have a serious impact on productivity and revenue.

BS OHSAS 18001 is a specially designed framework for occupational health and safety management to help organizations combat these challenges. Defining internationally recognized best practice, the standard helps companies to identify and minimize health and safety risks, while taking into account all legal requirements at every step of the implementation phase. It ensures organizations have the right measures in place to protect their employees and continually improve overall health and safety performance.

Correct implementation of the standard will lead to reduced incident and accident rates, improved performance and better control of occupational health and safety risks. With the right legislation in place, organizations will be less likely to be fined or prosecuted and boost their stakeholder and customer confidence. In the end, these results could lead to greater involvement and commitment from employees and management teams, better productivity, reduced costs and hence improved competitive advantage in the marketplace.

Integrating road traffic safety with health and safety management systems

Any organization using the road infrastructure directly or indirectly, should also make provision for road traffic safety in their approach to occupational health and safety management to ensure their employees and other road users are protected at all times. These include organizations with a company car fleet, haulage companies, as well as bus, coach, taxi and courier operators. Equally other organizations that can benefit from a best-practice road traffic safety management system are road designers, constructors and maintainers, public services, schools, hospitals, car parks and private amenities, supermarkets, sporting grounds and event venues.

Every day 6,300 people die as a result of occupational accidents or work-related diseases – that amounts to a staggering 2.3 million deaths per year. Reports also show that 317 million accidents occur at work annually and with many of these resulting in extended absences from work, the human and business cost is vast. The economic burden of poor occupational health and safety practices is currently estimated at 4% of global Gross Domestic Product each year¹.

Further statistics show that about 1.24 million people die yearly on the world's roads, with 20 to 50 million sustaining non-fatal injuries². So it's no wonder the cost of dealing with these consequences runs to billions of dollars every year.



Road traffic accidents are predicted to be the **world's fifth largest cause of death** by 2030

¹ <http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/safety-and-health-at-work/lang--de/index.htm>

² <http://www.who.int/features/factfiles/roadsafety/en/>

BS ISO 39001: Signposting the way to safer roads worldwide

BS ISO 39001's best-practice management framework is designed to help organizations actively reduce the risk of death and severe injuries from road traffic in areas directly within their reach and sphere of influence. In short, this internationally recognized standard aims to help save lives, support various corporate social responsibility programs, improve road traffic safety results beyond compliance and subsequently cut accident-related costs and downtime.

It is a powerful tool for any organization wishing to keep their workforce and others safe on the road.

How does BS ISO 39001 work?

The standard clearly stipulates the requirements for an effective road

traffic safety (RTS) management system and involves all the managers of an organization who are directly or indirectly responsible for this area in the business. Developed according to the Plan-Do-Check-Act approach, BS ISO 39001 provides hands-on management for ensuring organizations are clear on how to achieve their planned and desired RTS results.

These four stages take into account all the requirements of a successful RTS management system, including overall corporate governance, strategy and planning, management, reporting procedures, policies, values, culture and legal compliance. Thanks to its Plan-Do-Check-Act structure, BS ISO 39001 can easily be implemented alongside BS OHSAS 18001 as well as Quality and Environmental management systems.

What are the benefits of BS ISO 39001?

With an effective RTS management system in place, organizations can develop a holistic safe system approach. This will allow them to manage risks better and bring together existing road traffic initiatives. The standard is internationally recognised, so its framework can be applied across the globe to reduce road risks – leading to better business performance, an enhanced reputation for safety and access to new tender opportunities.

Conclusion

All organizations following the best-practice guidelines of BS OHSAS 18001 when developing and implementing their occupational health and safety management systems, know that risk assessment lies at the heart of this standard. The first requirement is to identify all occupational health and safety hazards, followed by a comprehensive risk assessment to determine the necessary controls to reduce and manage the identified risks.

Yet, many organizations fail to recognize the importance of road traffic safety in their business which in many cases is one of their

biggest occupational health and safety risks. By implementing BS ISO 39001 alongside BS OHSAS 18001, organizations can have a robust tool with internationally recognized methodologies to identify, address and manage road traffic hazards. This will enable them to take a truly holistic approach to occupational health and safety management – ensuring their employees and others are protected in all areas associated with their business.

Find out how your organization can benefit from integrating ISO 39001 with BS OHSAS 18001

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