

D 18

OHSAS 18 001 readiness

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Annexes

Goal of the module: Readiness for implementation, certification, maintenance and improvement of your occupational health and safety management system so as to be able to:

- increase satisfaction of interested parties
- control occupational health and safety risks
- demonstrate compliance with legal and regulatory requirements

1 Scope and steps

The first laws on health and safety at work have emerged in France in the late nineteenth century.

According to the International Labour Organization (tripartite UN agency to promote decent work throughout the world) there are approximately 270 million occupational accidents each year and 160 million cases of occupational diseases in the world. The concept of decent work implies safe work which leads to the economic well-being of people.

One way that has proven to protect workers is to establish an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system.

For France, the integration of occupational risk assessment (related to health and safety of workers) in the management of each company since 2001 is an obligation of the Labour Code (R4121-1).

The structure of the OHSAS 18001 standard is very close to international standards ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18 001. The similarities are many and this is one reason for using OHSAS 18001 in integrated QSE (Quality, Safety and Environment) management systems.

The OHSAS 18 001 standard is generic as it can be applied to any organization, without limitations about size, activity or type.

For this it is sufficient that the occupational health and safety management system (OH&SMS) is:

- determined
- implemented
- maintained
- improved and
- compliant with
 - developed OH&S policy
 - requirements of the OHSAS 18 001 standard

A well-prepared approach is half successful

The approach to implementing an OH&S management system goes through several steps. An example of preparation is shown in Figure 1-1.

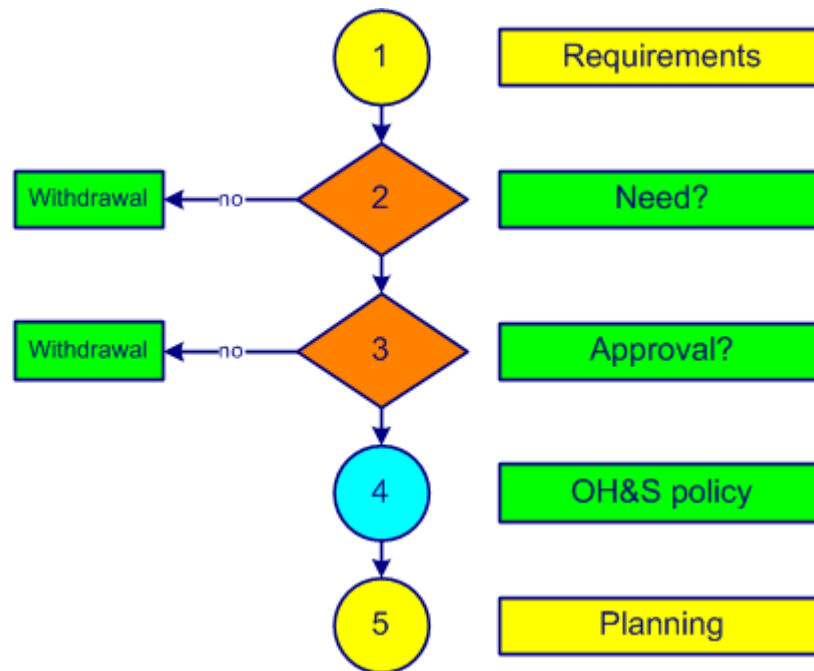


Figure 1-1. OH&SMS preparation

Step one contains the determination of the needs and expectations (**requirements**) of interested parties (internal and external). The involvement of top management at its highest level is truly indispensable. The advice of a consultant is often solicited. A status of the management system (or what exists of it) would be welcome at this stage. An external certification body is chosen.

One of the key questions which comes up quickly (**step 2**) is the **need** for this decision. If this is really unnecessary or if the estimated costs of the certification approach exceed the available resources, it is better to give up the idea right now. The benefits of implementing an OH&S management system are often:

- improved image of the organization
- reinforced staff safety
- reduced or eliminated incidents
- increased confidence of interested parties
- reduced production costs
- reduced insurance costs
- better preparation for emergencies
- the prevention of hazards becoming routine
- increased confidence of interested parties
- staff is aware, consulted, motivated and proud
- high level of risk control
- good practices valorised
- commitment profitable for all
- legal OH&S obligations up to date

The **third step** shall determine whether this approach receives the **approval** of the staff. A communication campaign is launched in-house. The staff is aware and understands that without their participation the project cannot succeed.