

ISO 45001:2018 – Context of the Organization

The International Organization of Standardization (ISO) publishes the ISO 45001:2018 standard, *Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS) – Requirements with guidance for use*. ISO 45001:2018 is the world's international standard for occupational safety and health (S&H). The aim of the standard is to provide a healthy and safe working environment to drive solutions to improve organizational safety performance, assess and eliminate risk, and increase productivity.

Context of the Organization is a clause within the ISO 45001:2018 standard. This clause helps organizations understand the entire environment in which the OHSMS will operate in prior to OHSMS implementation. Organizations need to continually evaluate the Context of the Organization as the OHSMS progresses because as the organization changes, so does the context.

Context of the Organization is important because it puts the “WHY” behind your organization’s choice for implementing an OHSMS. It carefully considers the organization’s current and future situation and strategic direction to make sure the OHSMS achieves anticipated outputs and outcomes.

Context of the Organization helps organizations understand why they want to implement an OHSMS and how to execute it through:

- Determination of external and internal issues (e.g., conditions, changing circumstances, organizational structure and processes) with potential to impact OHSMS operation
- An understanding of interested parties and workers relevant to OHSMS, as well as their relevant needs and expectations of the OHSMS
- A documented determination outlining the scope of the organization’s OHSMS (i.e., applicability and boundaries)
- Identification of the OHSMS processes needed for ISO 45001 implementation and integration of the OHSMS into other business processes
- Identification of anticipated outputs, or outcomes, from implementing OHSMS criteria.



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