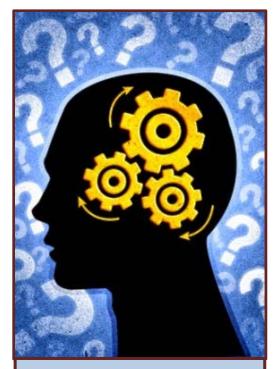# ISO 45001:2018 – Context of the Organization

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 is to help organizations understand the entire environment in which the OHSMS will operate in prior to implementation.

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

Keys to supporting the **Context of the Organization** include:

- Determination of external and internal issues affecting the organization's work activities, and their potential to impact OHSMS operations

- An understanding of interested parties and workers relevant to OHSMS, as well as their relevant needs and expectations of the OHSMS

- A <u>documented</u> determination outlining the scope of the organization's OHSMS (i.e., applicability and boundaries)

- Identification of the OHSMS processes needed for ISO 45001 implementation

- A plan to prepare for the integration of the OHSMS into all business processes

- Identification of anticipated outputs, or outcomes, from implementing OHSMS criteria.

External issues relate to the outside environment in which an organization operates. Examples of external issues include government regulations, changes in technology, relationships with stakeholders, social and cultural issues.

Internal issues relate to the issues occurring within an organization. Examples of internal issues include organizational structure and processes, products and services offered, objectives and strategic direction, and resource availability.

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Organizations need to continually review, evaluate, and monitor the **Context of the Organization** as the OHSMS progresses. As the organization changes, so does the context.

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: https://www.smscx.org/.

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