

Safety Management Systems

An introduction to OHSAS 18001:2007 - the internationally recognised standard for occupational health and safety management systems

What is OHSAS 18001

- ★ Every organisation has to deal with Health and Safety (H&S) legislation. The problem is it's a minefield of different standards and if you get it wrong it can result in some heavy penalties of fines or even imprisonment.
- ★ Class leading organisations invariably have a well defined, designed and integrated H&S Management System that is subjected to rigorous scheduled review, improvement & update.
- ★ Many such organisations have turned to OHSAS 18001 to install an H&S management system which whilst not guaranteeing immunity from HSE interventions helps to assure that reasonable practicable steps have been taken to assure the safety and well being of all employees.
- ★ OHSAS 18001:2007 follows the basic principles of ISO9001 Quality Management Systems and ISO14001 Environmental Management Systems and as such is mutually compatible with both systems.
- ★ BS OHSAS 18001 now refers to itself as a standard, not a specification, or document, as in the earlier edition. This reflects the increasing adoption of OHSAS 18001 as the basis for national standards on occupational health and safety management systems.

The purpose and principles of Safety Management

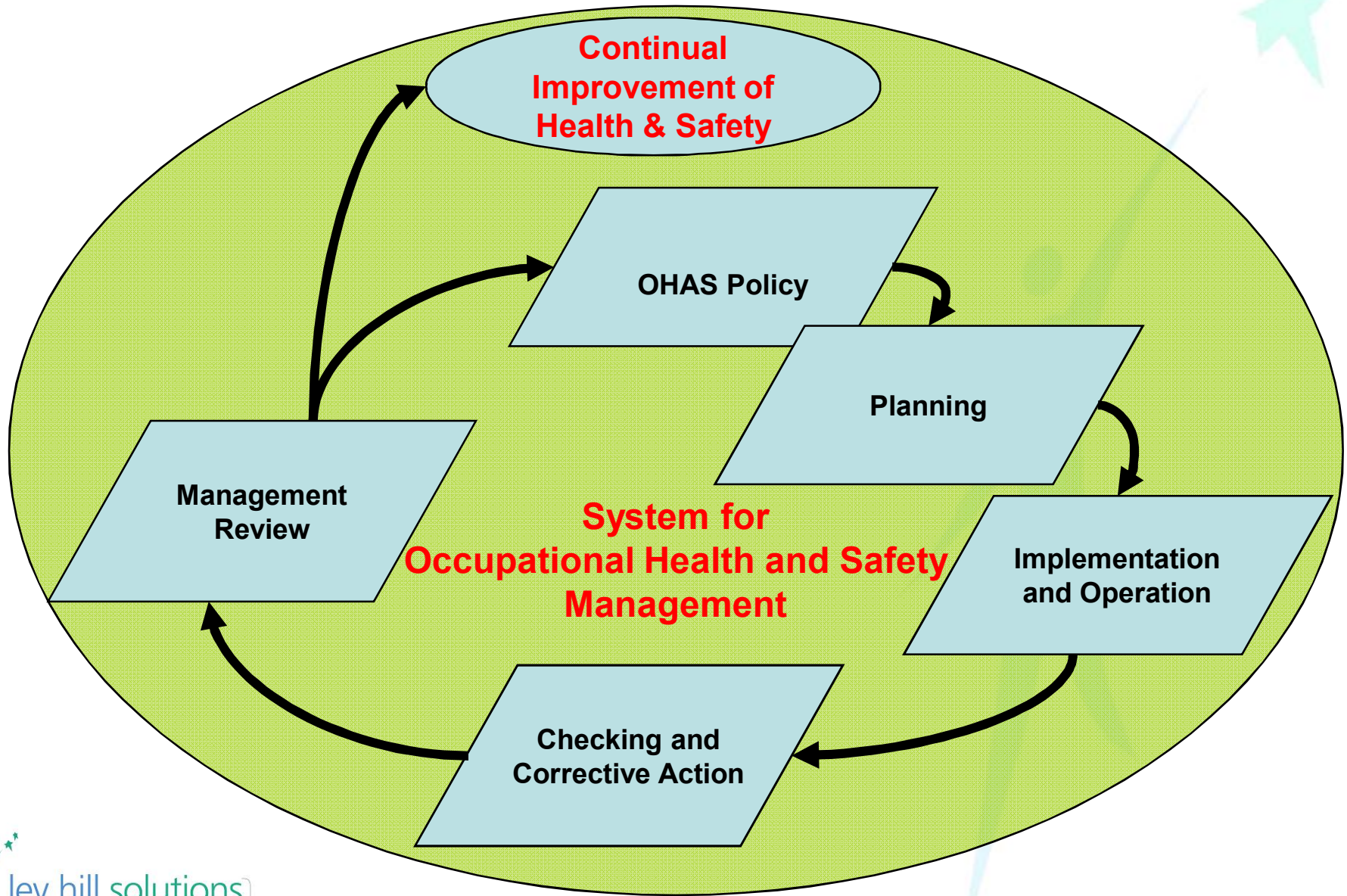
Purpose

- ★ Enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its Occupational Health and Safety performance by:
- ★ Recognising and Minimizing the risk to employees and other interested parties who may be exposed to OH&S risks associated with its activities
- ★ Assuring conformance with stated OH&S policies
- ★ Demonstrate such conformance to others.

The benefits

H&S Management Systems helps to:

- ★ Establish the organisation set its H&S Policies
- ★ Determine and accept OH&S residual risk level
- ★ Define the responsibilities for Safety throughout the organisation
- ★ Lay out the organisation's systems for OH&S
- ★ Provides a baseline upon which external assessment organisations can assess the success of the organisation's policies, processes and procedures.



The principle concepts of OHAS

- ★ ***Leadership and competence***
- ★ ***Risk Assessment and Control***
- ★ ***Legal Compliance***
- ★ ***Supply Chain Controls***
- ★ ***Communication, Cooperation and Consultation***
- ★ ***Incident Reporting, Recording and Investigation***
- ★ ***Emergency Preparedness***
- ★ ***Document Control***
- ★ ***Change Management***
- ★ ***Operational Control***
- ★ ***Operational Monitoring***
- ★ ***System Review***



Does OHAS 18001 have any drawbacks?

★ Yes it does:

- ★ Requires commitment from an organisation's leadership because some risk mitigation can prove expensive.
- ★ Bureaucracy remains a danger unless the management system is carefully controlled and undertaken.
- ★ Requires specifically trained individuals, particularly the safety representative who should have some recognised qualifications.

But all is not lost - with the right processes and training you can mitigate the expenses of the implementation of the management system and the system can be independently validated by many of the UKAS approved certification bodies.

What does it take to implement a good health and safety management systems

- ★ Get Senior Management direction and support
(The more senior managers are involved the better the implementation results)
- ★ Set out a process to define the systematic approach
(if you have a QMS it is useful to bring the safety management system within its control)
- ★ Give those involved the appropriate training
(training ensures people understand their responsibilities toward health and safety).
- ★ Develop and tailor risk identification and safety procedures
(Most organisations find that the right management tools make it easier to operate good health and safety practices)
- ★ Build, document and get ownership of your safety management.
(if you have a QMS the primary processes will probably already be documented and owned but there is some advantage to adopting a process model developed by recognised industry sources)
- ★ Develop Internal communication to share success and learning
(communicating success and learning increases the organisation's appetite to continue improvement)
- ★ Get independent evaluation for your H&S management system
(It is advisable to gain an independent assessment of your OHAS management system by a safety professional or Certification body)

What can we do to help?

- ★ Leyhill have a wealth of experience in:
 - ★ Building Management Systems based upon BS/ISO standards and guides
 - ★ Documenting processes
 - ★ Supporting management teams
 - ★ Developing and supporting communication plans
- ★ We also have experience in:
 - ★ Using and assessing against the EFQM Excellence model
 - ★ Building management systems based on ISO9001 and ISO14001.
 - ★ Developing Balanced Scorecard Strategy and Performance management systems
 - ★ Investors in People systems
 - ★ Contingency planning systems
 - ★ Customer service standards



★ If you want to know more please take a look at our website:

www.leyhill.com

★ Or you can call us on:

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