

ISO 45001

The Cornerstone for
An Effective Occupational Health
and Safety Culture



01 The Need for a Global Safety Standard

According to the International Labor Organization (ILO), more than 2.78 million deaths and nearly 374 million non-fatal injuries occur every year due to accidents and exposures at the workplace.¹ In the U.S. alone, the number of fatal injuries came in at over 5,333 for the year 2019.²

With companies and executives being held accountable for incidents in the workplace, the issue of workers' health and safety has become a persistent concern for organizations around the world.

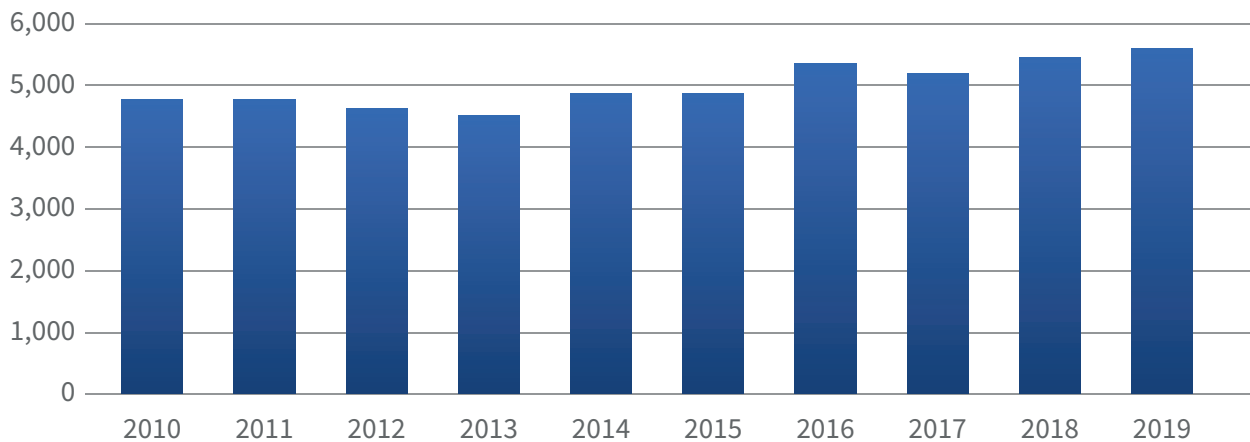


Fig. 1: Number of Fatal Work Injuries (2010-2019)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) outlines regulations for organizations in the U.S., while the British Standards (BS) OHSAS 18001 has become accepted by organizations across the world. However, neither of these provides a comprehensive international consensus standard. The apparent need for an international consensus standard on workplace health and safety prompted the proposal of ISO 45001 in 2013.

The standard, passed in March 2018, now serves as the international guide on occupational health and safety (OH&S) and outlines relevant methods and benchmarks.

As the world's first internationally approved standard on workplace health and safety, ISO 45001 offers a single definitive framework to improve the performance of occupational health and safety management systems. It lays down clear usage guidance, as well as requirements directed at the top management of the organization to create a safe workplace for both employees and visitors. ISO 45001 also helps organizations integrate other workplace health and safety aspects like worker wellbeing.



The standard is intended to be applicable to all organizations, irrespective of size, industry, or nature of worksite. It incorporates ISO's proactive approach towards product and process quality. ISO 45001 is expected to replace BS OHSAS 18001 over the three-year period of 2018 to 2021, as mandated by the International Accreditation Forum.

- For U.S.-based organizations that have operations or supply chain partners overseas, compliance with ISO 45001 may become desirable as it replaces BS OHSAS 18001 as the most acceptable global standard.

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The Advantages of ISO 45001 Certification for U.S. Organizations

The benefits of ISO 45001 go beyond improvement in OH&S performance. An immediate benefit is the trust associated with the brand. ISO 45001 certification means better acceptance with regulators and improved reputation among prospective clients and employees.

Moreover, with OHSAS 18001 scheduled to be officially phased out on 11th September, 2021, third-party certification will need to be transitioned to ISO 45001.

By following the standard's guidance of use, organizations can move from detection mode to prevention mode in dealing with health safety performance. This translates to increased operational efficiency and productivity through improved management.



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