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Just as there are guidelines and certifications for quality management systems, so are there certifications for management systems that are known for occupational hazards. The Occupational Health Safety Advisory Services or OHSAS 18000 is a group of international standards by the ISO that deal with occupational hazards, health and safety. The certifications in this group provide a framework in which a company can implement rules and guidelines for health and safety. The first certification in this group is entitled OHSAS 18001. It specifies the occupational health and safety management guidelines. By getting the OHSAS 18001 certification, a company is making a commitment to improve the health and safety system for the company's products, services employees and customers.

OHSAS 18001 Consultants help companies by offering advisory services on:

Occupational Health

Health and Safety

Hygiene

Counselling

Like the ISO 9000 Series, the OHSAS can be applied to a variety of industries. Some of the main industries are:

Manufacturing

Education

Pharmaceuticals

Health care

Engineering

Agriculture

The main objectives of the OHSAS are:

To improve health and safety management within an organization

To reduce accidents and increase operational performance

To be a source of reference for health and safety regulations.

As this is one among many standards of the ISO, organizations will find a similarity between OHSAS and other standards in terms of reviews, action plans and training. Like the ISO standards, the OHSAS is an auditable standard.

When a company is audited, an OHSAS 18001 consultant visits the company work site and checks

the company's health and safety management system against the company's daily work practices. The auditor takes into account the various practices that are not complying with the guidelines of the OHSAS. He makes a note of the major practices that are against the guidelines. He adds this information and then makes a recommendation to the company on further steps that can be taken. This can also include whether a company has passed the review and is eligible for OHSAS certification.

Once a company receives OHSAS 18001 certification, this certificate is valid for three years. And just like the ISO series, auditors make regular checks on the company in intervals. The company is required to renew the certification after the validity period has expired.

As one can see, there are many advantages to getting an OHSAS certification.

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