

SINGAPORE STANDARD

SS 506 : Part 1 : 2004

(ICS 03.100.01; 13.100)

Occupational safety and health (OSH) management system

Part 1 : Specification

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Contents

	Page
National Foreword _____	6
OHSAS 18001 Foreword _____	8

CLAUSES

1	Scope _____	10
2	Reference publications _____	10
3	Terms and definitions _____	10
4	OSH management system elements _____	12
4.1	General requirements _____	13
4.2	OSH policy _____	13
4.3	Planning _____	14
4.4	Implementation and operation _____	16
4.5	Checking and corrective action _____	19
4.6	Management review _____	21

ANNEXES

A	Correspondence between SS 506-1, ISO 14001:1996 and ISO 9001:2000 (informative) _____	22
B	Correspondence between SS 506-1, SS 506-2 : 2004, and the ILO-OSH:2001 Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems (informative) _____	25

TABLES

A.1	Correspondence between SS 506-1, ISO 14001:1996 and ISO 9001:2000 _____	22
B.1	Correspondence between the clauses of the SS 506 series and the clauses of the ILO-OSH Guidelines _____	27

FIGURES

1	Elements of successful OSH management _____	12
2	OSH policy _____	13
3	Planning _____	14
4	Implementation and operation _____	16
5	Checking and corrective action _____	19
6	Management review _____	21
	Bibliography _____	29

National Foreword

This Singapore Standard was prepared by the Technical Committee on Safety Management under the purview of the General Engineering and Safety Standards Committee.

Technological progress and intense competitive pressures bring rapid change in working conditions, work processes and organisation. This can give rise to new risk areas or change the way that occupational safety and health (OSH) needs to be managed. Strict compliance with OSH legislation is no longer adequate to enable an organisation to keep pace with the new risks and maintain a safe and healthy work environment.

Good safety and health performance is not only indicated by “no accident”, but also reflected by an effective OSH management system. Organisations of all kinds and sizes shall adopt a systematic approach to managing OSH – they shall develop and effectively implement OSH management systems. With an effectively implemented OSH management system, an organisation is able to tackle OSH challenges continuously and protect their employees against work-related illnesses and injuries.

To support the achievement of effectively implemented OSH management system at workplaces, this Singapore Standard was prepared with the primary objective of providing a framework for independent external audits and internal reviews of an organisation’s OSH management system. Any organisation can undertake such audits and reviews to measure the effectiveness of its OSH management system and continually improve it to keep pace with the changing world of work.

This standard is an adoption of the Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) 18001 : 1999, a document published by the British Standard Institution. The OHSAS 18001 : 1999 and 18002 : 2000 documents are reproduced with the permission of the OHSAS Project Group under licence number 2004CO0030. This licence is issued and administered by BSI (on behalf of the OHSAS Project Group). In any cases of dispute the English original shall be taken as authoritative.

This standard is compatible with the ISO’s quality and environmental management systems standards such that it would facilitate the integration of quality, environmental and OSH management systems by organisations. A comparative assessment with the ILO-OSH:2001 Guidelines on occupational safety and health management systems will also ensure that the standard is in line with that of the International Labour Office (ILO).

Compliance with this Standard does not exempt users from OSH legal obligations prescribed by the local authorities.

The Singapore Standard on OSH management system consists of the following parts:

Part 1 – Specification

Part 2 – General guidelines on the implementation of OSH management system

NOTE – subsequent parts of this series would provide specific guidance on implementation for specific industries

For the purpose of the adoption of the OHSAS document as a Singapore Standard, the following changes have been made to OHSAS 18001 : 1999:

- i) The references/terms found in OHSAS 18001 have been replaced as follows:

Reference/Term in OHSAS 18001 : 1999	Reference/Term in SS 506-1
OHSAS 18001	SS 506-1
OHSAS 18002	SS 506-2
OHSAS	SS 506 series
OHSAS documents	SS 506 series

- ii) The terms 'occupational health and safety (OHS)' have been replaced by 'occupational safety and health (OSH)'.
- iii) Clause 2 was amended to reflect reference to the corresponding SS 506-2 instead of OHSAS 18002 and BS 8800.
- iv) Table A.1 in Annex A has been removed.
- v) Reference to 'ISO 9001:1994' in the Bibliography has been removed.
- iv) The section on United Kingdom supplement has been removed.

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this Singapore Standard may be the subject of patent rights. SPRING Singapore shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all of such patent rights.

NOTE

1. *Singapore Standards are subject to periodic review to keep abreast of technological changes and new technical developments. The changes in Singapore Standards are documented through the issue of either amendments or revisions.*
2. *Compliance with a Singapore Standard does not exempt users from legal obligations.*

OHSAS 18001:1999 Foreword

This Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) specification and the accompanying OHSAS 18002, *Guidelines for the implementation of OHSAS 18001*, have been developed in response to urgent customer demand for a recognizable occupational health and safety management system standard against which their management systems can be assessed and certified.

OHSAS 18001 is compatible with the ISO 9001:1994, ISO 9001:2000 (Quality) and ISO 14001:1996 (Environmental) management systems standards, in order to facilitate the integration of quality, environmental and occupational health and safety management systems by organizations, should they wish to do so.

This OHSAS specification will be reviewed or amended when considered appropriate. Reviews will be conducted when new editions of either ISO 9001 or ISO 14001 are published, to ensure continuing compatibility.

This OHSAS specification will be withdrawn on publication of its contents in, or as, an international standard.

For the United Kingdom:

- BSI-OHSAS 18001 is not a British Standard;
- BSI-OHSAS 18001 will be withdrawn on publication of its content in, or as, a British Standard;
- BSI-OHSAS 18001 is published by BSI which retains its ownership and copyright.

The development process used for OHSAS 18001 is open to other sponsors wishing to produce similar types of documents in association with BSI, provided that those sponsors are willing to comply with BSI's conditions for such documents.

Publications referred to during the development of this OHSAS specification

The following documents were referenced during the development of this OHSAS specification:

BS 8800:1996, *Guide to occupational health and safety management systems*

Technical Report NPR 5001:1997, *Guide to an occupational health and safety management system*

SGS & ISMOL ISA 2000:1997, *Requirements for Safety and Health Management Systems*

BVQI SafetyCert, *Occupational Safety and Health Management Standard*

DNV, *Standard for Certification of Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (OHSMS):1997*

Draft NSAI SR 320, *Recommendation for an Occupational Health and Safety (OH & S) Management System*

Draft AS/NZ 4801, *Occupational health and safety management systems – Specification with guidance for use*

Draft BSI PAS 088, *Occupational health and safety management systems*

UNE 81900 series of pre-standards on the prevention of occupational risks

Draft LRQA SMS 8800 *Health & safety management systems assessment criteria*

OHSAS 18001 will supersede some of these referenced documents.

OHSAS 18001 maintains a high level of compatibility with, and technical equivalence to UNE 81900.

This publication does not purport to include all necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

Compliance with this Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series publication does not of itself confer immunity from legal obligations.

Occupational safety and health (OSH) management system – Part 1 : Specification

1 Scope

This specification gives requirements for an occupational safety and health (OSH) management system, to enable an organisation to control its OSH risks and improve its performance. It does not state specific OSH performance criteria, nor does it give detailed specifications for the design of a management system.

This specification is applicable to any organisation that wishes to:

- a) establish an OSH management system to eliminate or minimise risk to employees and other interested parties who may be exposed to OSH risks associated with its activities;
- b) implement, maintain and continually improve an OSH management system;
- c) assure itself of its conformance with its stated OSH policy;
- d) demonstrate such conformance to others;
- e) seek certification/registration of its OSH management system by an external organisation; or
- f) make a self-determination and declaration of conformance with this specification.

All the requirements in this specification are intended to be incorporated into any OSH management systems. The extent of the application will depend on such factors as the OSH policy of the organisation, the nature of its activities and the risks and complexity of its operations.

This specification is intended to address occupational safety and health rather than product and services safety.

2 Reference publications

Other publications that provide information or guidance are listed in the Bibliography. It is advisable that the latest editions of such publications be consulted. Specifically, reference should be made to SS 506-2 on Occupational safety and health management systems – General guidelines for the implementation of OSH management systems.

3 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this Singapore Standard, the following terms and definitions apply.

3.1 accident

Undesired event giving rise to death, ill health, injury, damage or other loss.

3.2 audit

Systematic examination to determine whether activities and related results conform to planned arrangements and whether these arrangements are implemented effectively and are suitable for achieving the organisation's policy and objectives (see 3.9).