

SAFETY FACT SHEET

SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

WHAT IS A SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM?

A Management System is a framework of policies; procedures and work practices that systematically address certain elements of a business discipline such as quality or safety.

Therefore, a *Safety Management System* will address and connect all those aspects of a business that relate to the identifying and managing of occupational safety and include processes for regular review and improvement. This is different from an unconnected series of policies and procedures related to the safety aspects of a business. A Safety Management System addresses legislative requirements and is often based on a Standard or Code.

Normally a Management Manual documents the framework of the interaction between the processes, procedures, software and forms necessary for the implementation of the Safety Management System.

BRIEF HISTORY OF SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

The requirement for organisations to develop Safety Management Systems grew out of the aftermath of a number of disasters, such as an accident in England in 1974, when a whole village was blown away as a result of an explosion. Until recently the two most widely accepted standards for SMS's worldwide were the British standard 18001 and an Australian standard 4801. In 2018 the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) - a worldwide federation of national standards bodies – published the standard ISO 45001 which is now best practice for Safety Management Systems worldwide.

SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia has the same legislation - Work Health and Safety legislation – as the rest of Australia and there are Codes of Practice that are applicable depending on the industry and type of work that is done.

Some tenders and government contracts do require certification to a recognised safety management system to show that you have implemented good practises.

There are “cut down” versions of 45001 that are straightforward to develop for small to medium organisations and businesses. These basic Safety Management Systems will enable compliance to the legislation as well as developing procedures and forms that are specific to controlling the safety risks for that particular business and industry.

The best way to ensure ongoing compliance is to have your Safety Management System audited at least yearly by an Independent Auditor.



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