

# 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 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, predominantly in Europe. An accident in England in 1974, when a whole village was blown away as a result of an explosion led to a requirement for companies to have a Safety Management System (SMS).

Currently the two most widely accepted standards for SMS's worldwide are the British standard 18001 and the Australian and New Zealand standard AS/NZS 4801:2001.

### SAFETY COMPLIANCE IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

South Australia is now part of the Australia wide Workplace Health and Safety legislation which is similar throughout. There are also now Codes of Practice that are applicable depending on the industry and type of work that is done.

There are several "cut down" versions of 4801 and 18001 that are easy to develop for small to medium organisations and businesses. These basic Safety Management System 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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