

July 2006 Unit A Q1 – Third attempt

Disadvantages of moving to OHSAS18001

The regulator's inspectors use HSG65 when they visit your premises

There is free advice and there are free publications (many free from the HSE) which give guidance on implementing and maintaining an HSG65 system, there is no such authoritative advice freely available for OHSAS18001.

OHSAS18001 is externally certified and this is a substantial cost for small companies.

OHSAS18001 is more prescriptive and requires the collection and retention of records which are not required under HSG65, this results in an increase in the company's administrative burden and may have cost implications.

Advantages of moving to OHSAS18001

OHSAS18001 is an internationally recognised standard which is externally certified by accredited bodies (accredited by UCAS in the UK) so it provides clear evidence to all stakeholders and prospective customers that the organisation invests in effective H&S management.

OHSAS18001 is a more prescriptive system, making it easier to assess a management system's compliance to its requirements.

OHSAS18001 provides a certificate and the opportunity to use certification logos on paperwork, vehicles, adverts providing opportunities to raise the company's profile and improve the public perception of the company in much the same way as certification to ISO9001 and ISO14001.

Because OHSAS18001 has similar requirements to ISO14001 and ISO9001, it makes integration of management systems easier, should this be something the company finds desirable.

OHSAS18001 requires that the company sets goal and targets for continual improvement in the area of H&S and this results in a continually reducing risk profile for the company.

Some insurance companies offer discounts to customers who are OHSAS18001 certified.