

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Why did ASSP decide to launch an accreditation institute?**

The decision to launch an accreditation institute is due in large part to the adoption of the ISO 45001 standard for occupational health and safety management systems (OHSMS).

It took significant international coordination to arrive at ISO 45001, which many consider to be the most significant safety and health standard in the past 50 years. More than 60 countries, many of which have their own OHSMS standards, participated in the development of this global standard. The adoption of 45001 provides, for the first time, a global safety management system standard for organizations to which organizations can be certified. The ASSP Certification & Accreditation Institute offers that opportunity.

ISO 45001 provides a framework from which OHS objectives can be effectively managed. Just as ISO 9000 and ISO 14000 have provided consensus solutions to questions of quality management and environmental protection in the global marketplace, ISO 45001 will help drive solutions for improving worker safety.

The creation of the institute further drives the evolution of workplace safety and health worldwide. The program certifies an applying organization based on recognized voluntary national and international consensus standards. The institute is partnering with an accredited third-party registrar, Orion, to carry out the audits, verify the results of the assessment and issue a certification mark when all requirements are met.

### **What will the accreditation institute offer?**

The [ASSP Certification & Accreditation Institute LLC](#), which is an independent entity of ASSP, is a full-service provider of certification services. The institute works with companies to certify their workplace safety and health processes to established standards that demonstrate a commitment to safety. In addition to 45001, the institute offers certification to several other ISO standards, including 39001, 20000 and 22001.

ASSP brings a long history and extensive expertise in standards development to the certification process. As secretariat for multiple national and global standards including ISO 45001 and ISO 31000, Risk Management Guidelines, ASSP has helped develop consensus standards that incorporate industry best practices and the latest technological development.

The institute's certification mark confirms adherence to specific standards and reflects a company's investment in occupational safety and health management. Demonstrating this type of commitment to safety can provide a competitive advantage when bringing products and services to global markets.

## **What will differentiate the ASSP Certification & Accreditation Institute from similar offerings already in the market?**

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## **Why should an organization certify to a recognized consensus standard?**

Certifying to a recognized consensus standard demonstrates your organization's commitment to continuously improving occupational safety and health processes and protecting human capital by preventing work-related injuries and illnesses. Receiving a certification mark shows that you have taken concrete steps to improve your occupational safety and health processes to protect people, property and the environment.

Companies that are certified to ISO 9001 and/or ISO 14001 have reported many positive business benefits of those standards on quality and environmental management. Certifying to ISO 45001 can deliver similar positive results for safety management.

## **How will ISO 45001 certification help your business?**

Implementing an OHSMS will help any organization identify and mitigate or eliminate the risks that place its workers in harm's way. When workers are safe, organizational performance improves developing and implementing effective policies and objectives. It provides governmental agencies, industry and other affected stakeholders with effective, usable guidance for improving worker safety around the globe.

## **How else can certification help a company?**

Certifying your organization to ISO 45001 will demonstrate your commitment to providing a safe place to work. That means a lot in today's competitive job market, where many young professionals are looking to find jobs with organizations that are socially conscious and actively invested in the health and well-being of their employees. And of course, there are many other corollary benefits, from reducing insurance costs and the number of lost-time incidents to increased productivity, improving employee morale.

In terms of a competitive advantage, certification can help open doors to international markets and strengthen your corporate reputation through demonstrating that you have taken the proper steps to ensure that your processes are conducted in as safe a manner as possible and you are continuously working to improve performance.

With certification, an organization is more likely to have a healthy safety culture and an engaged workforce, which can help improve productivity and strengthen the bottom line.

### **Is ISO 45001 certification required to enter certain markets?**

While there is no requirement to certify to an ISO management system standard, having a formal management system in place will produce many benefits because it demands a focus on best practices. Certification is an added endorsement that demonstrates to external parties that you have achieved full compliance with a specific safety standard.

ISO 45001 will replace OHSAS 18001, the world's former reference for workplace safety and health. Organizations already certified to OHSAS 18001 will have three years to comply with the new ISO 45001 standard, however certification of conformity is not a requirement of ISO 45001.

### **How can I get a copy of 45001 to understand the requirements?**

ISO 45001 is available on our standards [page](#).

### **How does the certification process work?**

- At a high level, the certification process consists of the following steps:
- Request a quote
- Receive a contract for auditing and certification services
- Perform a pre-assessment – Set expectations for the audit
- Undergo a formal audit – Review process implementation and conduct a certification assessment
- Implement corrective action – Address any issues of non-compliance
- Receive initial certification – Receive a certificate upon successful completion
- Undergo surveillance audits – Conducted 12 months after initial certification
- Apply for recertification – Conducted before expiration of initial certification

### **Do clients have to periodically recertify after the initial certification?**

Yes, certification has a three-year cycle. The initial certificate is issued in year one, a surveillance audit is conducted in year two, and recertification must be done in year three.



### **Is the accreditation institute looking into additional offerings in the future?**

Yes, ASSP's road map for the institute includes offering certification for the content of training materials as they relate to specific standards such as [ANSI/ASSP Z490.1](#), as well as a registration service for ISO 45001 auditors.

### **How can someone learn more about the accreditation institute?**

For more information, please visit the [ASSP Certification & Accreditation Institute web page](#).

### **Who should people contact if they are interested in getting certified?**

If you are interested in getting certified, you can start by completing a quote request on our [web page](#). You can also email us at [info@assp-cai.org](mailto:info@assp-cai.org).

### **Can you recommend any organizations or people to talk to prepare for the audit?**

The certification process includes a pre-assessment, which will help you prepare for the formal audit.