

OHSAS 18001

OHSAS 18001 is an assessment standard for occupational health and safety management published in 1999 which maintains consistency with ISO14001. A result of concerted efforts by leading certification bodies, standard agencies, and consultancy organizations, OHSAS 18001 can be adopted by any organization seeking to reduce health and safety risks systematically.

A safe, healthy working environment is important for increased productivity and reductions in work hours lost due to injury and illness. This is extremely important for SMEs that must be competitive, cost-effective, and productive to survive in the era of globalization. Therefore, a training course on OHSAS 18001 was organized 23–27 April in Jakarta, Indonesia, attended by 24 delegates from 15 member countries. The course was conducted by two certified OHSAS lead auditors and a senior consultant.



Participants visiting PT Showa Indonesia Manufacturing

The five-day course used accelerated learning methodology. On day 1, the participants were divided into five groups based on qualifications and experience. Each group was given a case study of a hypothetical industry for which to develop an occupational health and safety management system. The case studies were carried out in a stepwise manner, with an explanation of each step from the resource speakers. This helped participants comprehend the system requirements more rapidly. Elements of OHSAS 18001 including formulating organizational policy, hazard identification, risk assessment and control, objectives, implementation plans, emergency preparedness, and performance measurement and monitoring criteria were discussed. The participants were also encouraged to engage in auditing role plays. These clarified that the focus of such systems should be on hazard and risk identification and subsequent elimination, isolation, or mitigation through proper planning.

During the training course, a field visit was made to PT Showa Indonesia Manufacturing, which produces automotive shock absorbers. This company received many awards for its excellent safety and health culture and has also obtained OHSAS 18001 certification. The visit provided participants an opportunity to observe practical aspects related to implementation of the OHSAS system and documentation. 