

UPDATED OHSAS 18001:2007

BSI 18001:2007 was released on July 1, 2007 to replace the existing standard BSI 18001:1999 standard. All PJR clients have two years to upgrade to the new standard and existing ISO 18001:1999 certificates will become obsolete by July 1, 2009. Numerous improvements have been made to the new standard but one of the main features is that it has been modified to make it more aligned to the ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 14001:2004 standards so that organizations can now have truly integrated management systems. All new clients will be audited to the 18001:2007 standard as of April 1, 2008 while the transition upgrade audits will begin for existing PJR clients from April 1, 2008. Clients can choose to upgrade during their regular surveillance audit or recertification audit, if applicable.

Some of the changes to be expected in the new BSI 18001:2007 standard are¹:

- The importance of "health" has now been given greater emphasis.
- OHSAS 18001 now refers to itself as a standard, not a specification, or document, as in the earlier edition. This reflects the increasing adoption of OHSAS 18001 as the basis for national standards on occupational health and safety management systems.
- The "Plan-Do-Check-Act" model diagram is only shown in full in the Introduction.
- Reference publications in Clause 2 have been limited to purely international documents.
- New definitions have been added, and existing definitions revised.
- Significant improvement in alignment with ISO 14001:2004 throughout the standard, and improved compatibility with ISO 9001:2000.
- The term "tolerable risk" has been replaced by the term "acceptable risk"
- The term "accident" is now included in the term "incident"
- The definition of the term "hazard" no longer refers to "damage to property or damage to the workplace environment"
- It is now considered that such "damage" is not directly related to occupational health and safety management, which is the purpose of this OHSAS Standard, and that it is included in the field of asset management. Instead, the risk of such "damage" having an effect on occupational health and safety should be identified through the organization's risk assessment process, and be controlled through the application of appropriate risk controls
- Sub-clauses 4.3.3 and 4.3.4 have been merged, into a single clause 4.3.3 "Objectives and Programme(s)" in line with ISO 14001:2004.
- A new requirement has been introduced for the consideration of the hierarchy of controls as part of OH&S planning
- Management of change is now more explicitly addressed
- A new clause on the "Evaluation of compliance" has been introduced, as per ISO 14001:2004
- New requirements have been introduced for participation and consultation
- New requirements have been introduced for the investigation of incidents

If you need more details or have questions regarding the new BSI 18001:2007 transition process, please contact Sharada Rao, 14001/18001 Assistant Program Manager, at srao@pjr.com

¹ Taken from the Foreword in the Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems – Requirements