

# *Introduction to the OHSAS Project Group*

by

**Charles Corrie**  
Secretary to the  
**OHSAS Project Group**

## Origins

**The OHSAS Project Group was established in late 1998, following:**

- **The 1996 ISO Workshop that decided not to start work on OH&S MSS**
- **The decision by ISO not to support the ILO in the development of a guidance document on OH&S MSS**
- **The failure of the ballot at ISO to accept the proposal to develop guidance on OH&S MSS, based on BS 8800 (29 votes in favour, with 20 against)**
- **The failure of the ballot in CEN to accept a proposal to develop guidance on OH&S MSS**

## **Objectives**

**The objectives of the OHSAS Project Group are:**

- 1. To promote the publication of an OH&S MSS Specification / Requirements standard by ISO**

**While objective no.1 remains unachieved:**

- 2. The development of an OH&S MSS Specification / Requirements standard that is widely accepted, adopted, and used**
- 3. Supporting national standard bodies and OH&S Institutions in their development and promotion of OH&S MSS**

# **Membership of the OHSAS Project Group**

**National Standards Bodies**

**Government Agencies**

**National OH&S Institutions**

**Certification bodies**

**+ other individual organizations as Observer members**

# What has happened since 1998 ?

## Publications

- **18001 published in 1999**
- **18002 published in 2000**
- **AS/NZ 4801 published in 2001**
- **ILO OSH guidance published in (late) 2001**
- **Amendment to 18001 / 18002 showing relationship to the ILO guidance published in 2002**
- **ANSI Z10 published in 2005**

## **What has happened since 1998 ?**

**OHSAS “Standards and Certificates” surveys conducted in 2003, 2004, 2005 have shown:**

- significant growth in the worldwide publication of OH&S standards/documents (44)**
- Rapid growth in certification against these standards (15185)**
- Significant growth in the number of countries where these standards are used and certification is performed (82)**

## **Survey results**

### **2005 - OHSAS (or equivalent) certificates**

**No discernable pattern as yet between:**

- Large versus Small countries**
- Developed versus developing countries**

**Highest uptake has been in the chemical, construction, engineering, and distribution sectors. Food sector also prominent.**

## **Recent activities in CEN and ISO**

- **January 2005, BSI proposal to ISO to adopt BS 8800:2004**
- **CEN/BT/WG 168 established to develop OH&S MSS guidance**
- **CEN awaiting the result of ISO decision on BS 8800**
- **ISO requested BSI to consult ILO on BS 8800 proposal**

## **Recent activities in CEN and ISO**

- **ISO has decided to survey all its members about their OH&S standardization activities**
- **ILO requested BSI to re-write BS 8800 to follow their ILO-OSH document**
- **April 2007, the ILO has advised that it is not willing to support the BS 8800 proposal, or the OH&S survey, at ISO.**
- **ISO/TMB to consider the ILO response in June**

## **Revision of OHSAS 18001 and OHSAS 18002**

- **Publication of ISO 14001:2004 led to calls to revise 18001**
- **2005 “Systematic Review” of OHSAS 18001 /18002 led to the decision to revise the standards**
- **The current CEN / ISO/ ILO situation regarding BS 8800 led to the realisation that it is still not a viable time to take this work to ISO**
- **Decision to recall the OHSAS Project Group**

## **Revision of OHSAS 18001 and OHSAS 18002**

- **Initial Working Draft 1 of OHSAS 18001 prepared by the OHSAS Project Group Secretariat, and circulated for review, February 2006**
- **Madrid meeting, Oct 2006, to review the received comments**

## **Revision of OHSAS 18001 and OHSAS 18002**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Working draft issued on 28 November 2006**

- **549 comments received**
- **from 46 groups of commentators**
- **based in 24 different countries**
- **covering all major continents**

**All comments reviewed during the OHSAS Project Group meeting 26 - 29 March 2007, in Shanghai.**

**Consensus reached on draft for publication**

**Publication of a new edition now expected**

**June/July 2007,**

**following final editing and typesetting.**

## **For the future:**

- **Transition period of 24 months agreed for organizations to upgrade from OHSAS 18001:1999.**
- **Revision of key supporting document OHSAS 18002 “Guidelines on the application of OHSAS 18001” to be started. Completion expected end of 2008.**
- **Discussions on OH&S Auditing and Auditor qualification criteria.**
- **ISO/TMB decision on ILO’s response**

## **An item for the future**

**The EU Notified Bodies group for railway directives, policy making group (Article 21 Committee - A21C). In a report on its last meeting (Oct 2006) was the following:**

**"The Commission and ERA announced some proposed changes to the Rail Safety Directive. This directive requires transport undertakings to have a Safety Management System that forms part of an application for a safety authorisation or safety certificate, which the undertaking must hold before it can operate. The latest proposals will make changes to the member state's Safety Authority duties and require them to administer third party assessment and annual monitoring of SMSs.**

**CEN is to be given a mandate to draft a standard for railway SMSs that will be based around the principles of ISO 9001 and OHSAS 18001. ”**

*Thank you*

*For*

*Your attention*

**Charles Corrie**