



- Safety is the highest priority and takes precedence over other objectives
- Each employee is responsible for their own safety and also looks out for colleagues' safety
- Work-related injuries and illnesses are preventable
- Safety concerns are brought forward without fear of reprisal
- Compliance with applicable safety requirements is expected
- Leaders are role models and should always demonstrate a commitment to safety
- Line management is responsible and accountable for safe operations
- Employees have the right to a safe workplace

- Be aware of hazards in the workplace and how they can be mitigated
- Pause or stop work when a work task or activity may be unsafe or not understood well enough to carry out safely
- Report workplace injuries or illnesses to your supervisor
- Wear personal protective equipment as required
- Follow procedures, directives, and other work control requirements
- Report any safety issue or concern to your supervisor
- Perform assigned work tasks only after receiving appropriate training and approvals



O H S M S

Why OHS 18001?

- Provides an overarching and internationally accepted framework that standardizes the organization of the Laboratory's existing health and safety policies, programs (ISMS, WSHP), and actions
- Helps ensure compliance with applicable OHSMS requirements
- Provides ongoing surveillance and re-certification audits by independent parties to ensure continued conformance with international standards of health and safety performance
- Provides assurance to partners, clients, and the community that the Laboratory meets an international standard for OHS

OHS 18001 Contacts:

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OHS 18001

Occupational Health & Safety Management System

International Recognized Certification

Introducing the **OHS 18001** International Standard

Occupational health and safety are integral elements of the Laboratory's philosophy and its success. Cutting-edge science relies on maintaining high standards of health and safety management. The Laboratory's Integrated Safety Management System (ISMS) and Worker Safety and Health Program (WSHP) successfully maintain those standards.

In a competitive business world, industrial and academic collaborators seek partnerships with businesses that demonstrate their operational excellence through certification that conforms to internationally recognized standards. Accreditation under the OHS 18001 Standard provides the same kind of international recognition for our health and safety performance as the ISO 14001, or Environmental Management System (EMS), certification does for our environmental performance.

With that goal in mind, the Laboratory announces its implementation of the 18001 Occupational Health and Safety Management System, or OHSMS.

For employees, the new system will entail relatively seamless changes. For the Laboratory, certification means that its operational excellence in health and safety is internationally recognized.

1 ISMS: THE BACKBONE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY AT THE LAB

The introduction of another health and safety management system seems counterintuitive. After all, ISMS is well established and successfully protects employee health and safety. So why add to a good thing?

Think of it this way. ISMS guiding principles and elements fulfill the requirements of the OHSMS. Simply put, the OHSMS organizes ISMS within an internationally recognized standard. It allows others to easily compare each element of our existing health and safety program and efforts to a known standard. That's the business sense behind international standards and explains the increasing trend for these certifications in the competitive business sector.

All employees have a right to a safe workplace. Laboratory employees include visitors, students, contract employees, supplemental laborers, and LLNS employees. With this right, also comes a responsibility to participate in and support OHSMS efforts, including bringing up safety concerns or implementing a stop work without fear of reprisal. This brochure provides information to better understand the OHSMS program and ways to ensure a safe workplace for all of us.

3 SAFETY VALUES ARE CORE VALUES

The Laboratory's well-established health and safety programs, including ISMS and WSHP, provide the elements that meet the requirements of the OHSMS. The guiding principles, policies and practices that these elements address translate into safety values and behaviors on-the-ground, whether formally or in a grass-roots manner.

For example, while no policy currently stipulates the use of bicycle helmets while cycling at the Lab, many employees act as role models by wearing helmets, paving the way toward reducing risk and enhancing health and safety. Work practices and behaviors of employees serve as a mechanism to link the Laboratory's occupational health and safety philosophy with our business policies, overall expected practices, and OHSMS performance.

2 EMPOWERED EMPLOYEES LEAD TO SAFETY INNOVATIONS

ISMS strives to empower employees to take personal responsibility for safety. The OHSMS reinforces that emphasis.

Employees have the unqualified right to take action, such as stopping work, on all work-related matters that affect their health and safety. Not only is this a right, it's a responsibility because employees often have the best understanding of the risks associated with their work. Employees also most often assist in finding a better, safer way to accomplish the task at hand.

Being empowered to maintain a safe work environment is in keeping with the Laboratory's commitment that there be no negative consequences for reporting potential or real gaps in health and safety policies and practices.

Empowered employees lead the way to safety innovations.

4 REGULAR AUDITS AND EXTERNAL CHECKS AND BALANCES

Like ISMS, the OHSMS entails checks and balances. This includes employees' evaluations of the Laboratory's health and safety values, policies, practices, and potential gaps. OHS 18001 certification also requires regular and independent surveillance and certification audits.

So what does this mean for you in terms of what you need to do?

What you have to do is not much different from what all of us are doing right now. Refresh your ISMS knowledge, implement its work controls in your everyday work activities, and, most of all, protect your health and safety.

5 EMPLOYEE FEEDBACK FOR CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

The OHSMS complements the ISMS philosophy that encourages employee feedback to support the goal for continual improvement in the Laboratory's safety performance.

A robust safety management system relies on employee participation. What can employees do to support health and safety?

- **PROMOTE SAFE WORK BEHAVIORS:** Supervisors create a work environment that supports the rights and responsibilities of employees to protect their health and safety, including openness for health and safety communication. Employees engage with management, supervisors, and colleagues to identify and reduce health and safety risks.
- **TALK ABOUT IT:** Talk to colleagues, supervisors, and family about workplace health and safety. Share health and safety stories.
- **GET INVOLVED:** Join a directorate or department safety advisory committee or contribute to health and safety article series or resource development.

**Safety
makes
a better
work life.**

First Rate Safety
First Rate Laboratory

O H S M S

