

Headline: How to Select the Best Safety Management System

Date: 10/19/20

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Target publication date: TBD

Blog: ASSP News

Occupational safety and health (OSH) professionals often ask, “Which safety management system standard should I use?” They are primarily assessing whether ANSI/ASSP Z10 or ANSI/ASSP/ISO 45001 is a best fit for their organization.

ASSP is secretariat of the Z10 Committee, which writes the current [Z10 occupational health and safety management system \(OHSMS\)](#) standard and two implementation guides. We are also administrator of the technical advisory group (TAG) to ANSI for the ISO TC-283 Committee, the global group responsible for the [ISO 45001 OHSMS](#) standard. These roles reflect our position as a global champion of these systems and our advocacy for the importance of effective safety management overall.

Discussions around the two leading consensus standards have generated greater interest in both. However, those deliberations often don’t focus how to select the best system for your circumstances. The following resources can guide your deliberations.

Comparative Analysis

The September 2020 issue of Professional Safety included A. Michael Shekari’s article, “[Safety Management Systems Standards and Guidelines: A Comparative Analysis](#).” It highlights areas where the various safety management system standards differ and identifies best practices for their use and implementation.

In a follow-up interview, Shekari shared additional insight on his research. He also explained how the scope and structure of the standards/guidelines enable them to be scaled based on organization size and needs and discussed a range of factors that should be considered in the selection process.

[Watch the interview](#)

Guidance Manual

In addition, the [ASSP GM-Z10.100-2019 Guidance and Implementation Manual for ANSI/ASSP Z10.0-2019 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems](#) includes a detailed chart that compares the different standards and guidance documents.

[Read Chapter 20](#)

Podcasts and Online Articles

Given the growing focus on safety management standards and ASSP’s involvement in developing Z10 and ISO 45001, several of our podcasts provide insight that can help you decide which standard best meets your needs.

[Planning an OHSMS Audit](#) | Ken Clayman, U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO 45001

[How to Implement the Z10 Standard at Your Organization](#) | Tim Fisher and Lauren Bauerschmidt, ASSP

[ANSI/ASSP Z10 Update](#) | Jim Howe, ANSI/ASSP Z10 Committee

[ANSI/ASSP Z10 and Safety Management](#) | Amy Timmerman, ANSI/ASSP Z10 Committee

[ISO 45001](#) | Vic Toy, U.S. Technical Advisory Group for ISO 45001

[Industry Consensus Standards](#) | Tim Fisher, ASSP

In addition, these online articles explore the selection, implementation and assessment of safety management systems.

[Q&A: Is the ISO 45001 Safety Management System Right for You?](#)

[5 Tips for Planning a Successful OHSMS Audit](#)

[How the Z10 Implementation Guide Can Improve Your OHSMS Audit](#)

[How to Build a Successful Safety and Health Management System](#)

[How ISO 45001 and Z10 Safety Management System Standards Fit With GRI Standard on Occupational Health and Safety](#)

Proving the Positive Impact of OHSMS

As part of the effort to gain management buy-in for implementing an OHSMS, safety professionals are constantly scanning for examples that prove a positive impact. ASSP has compiled a selection of research papers, white papers, data and examples that address this issue.

[View OHSMS compilation](#)

Additional Public Materials

These articles and studies address management systems overall, with some specific to safety management systems and return on investment, which can help you convince corporate leaders to support efforts to implement a system and manage safety the same way the organization manages other business elements.

[A systematic review of the effectiveness of safety management systems](#)

[Safety management systems- Audit tools and reliability of auditing](#)

[A Human Factors Perspective on Safety Management Systems](#)

[Return on Investment Tool for Assessing Safety Interventions](#)

[Safety Management System SMS Explained](#)

[Safety Management Systems \(SMS\): Information, Approaches and Best Practices](#)