

EQA Health & Safety Scheme Regulations

This document is Supplemental to the EQA Scheme Regulations. It is designed to cover the extra requirements for OHSAS 18001:2007 Certification.

Health & Safety Legislation:

1. Companies are expected to include a commitment to comply with all relevant Health & Safety legislation within their Safety Policy. Failure to meet this commitment or failure to take action to meet this commitment within a reasonable time frame will result in suspension and/or withdrawal of certification by EQA.
2. The European co-operation for Accreditation (EA) have issued a guidance document on what is expected of a certification body auditing legal compliance as part of an accredited ISO 14001 Environmental Management System audit (see link below).
<http://www.european-accreditation.org/n1/doc/EA-7-04.pdf>
EA have not yet developed an equivalent document for OHSAS 18001, however, this is under consideration. As there is very close correlation between the clauses of ISO 14001 and OHSAS 18001 and the requirements for legal compliance are similar, EQA will follow similar principles when auditing OHSAS 18001 management systems for legal compliance. If and when EA issue a guidance document for OHSAS 18001, EQA will follow these guidelines.
3. Companies are obliged to inform EQA of any convictions or penalties imposed for breach of Occupational Health & Safety Legislation within 10 working days. EQA will conduct a review of the certification status based on the severity of the occurrence and any remedial actions which have been taken to rectify the situation.
4. Companies are obliged to inform EQA of any litigious action being taken against them for breach of Health & Safety Legislation within 10 working days of the company becoming aware that such action has been commenced.

Incidents, Accidents and Emergency Situations:

1. Companies are obliged to inform EQA of any major incidents, accidents or emergency situations concerning their Occupational Health & Safety Management System within 10 working days of their occurrence.
2. Failure to notify EQA of major incidents, accidents or emergency situations may result in suspension or withdrawal of Certification and/or require a special visit to confirm on-going compliance.