



BSI Standards Publication

**Occupational health and safety  
management systems - General  
guidelines for the application  
of ISO 45001**

Part 2: Risks and opportunities

**Publishing and copyright information**

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### Summary of pages

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## Foreword

### **Publishing information**

This British Standard is published by BSI Standards Limited, under licence from The British Standards Institution, and came into effect on 28 February 2019. It was prepared by Technical Committee HS/1, *Occupational health and safety management*. A list of organizations represented on this committee can be obtained on request to its secretary.

### **Use of this document**

As a guide, this British Standard takes the form of guidance and recommendations. It should not be quoted as if it were a specification or a code of practice and claims of compliance cannot be made to it.

### **Presentational conventions**

The guidance in this standard is presented in roman (i.e. upright) type. Any recommendations are expressed in sentences in which the principal auxiliary verb is “should”.

*Commentary, explanation and general informative material is presented in smaller italic type, and does not constitute a normative element.*

### **Contractual and legal considerations**

This publication does not purport to include all the necessary provisions of a contract. Users are responsible for its correct application.

**Compliance with a British Standard cannot confer immunity from legal obligations.**

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## 0 Introduction

Understanding risks and opportunities is vital to improving how well an organization manages health and safety.

Managing health and safety is not simply looking at what the organization does and identifying risks from, for example, working on a roof or handling chemicals. An effective occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system uses risk-based thinking at every stage.

Risk-based thinking is not complex. A person automatically makes risk-based decisions.

- a) When making a hot drink, we automatically hold the kettle by its handle to avoid burning ourselves and choose a cup suitable for containing boiling water.
- b) When crossing the road, we look for a gap in traffic or decide to use a crossing.

There are different types of risks and opportunities to consider, including:

- 1) OH&S risks to workers (what can hurt a worker?; what can make them ill?);
  - 2) risks to the management system (what might stop the system from working?; e.g. systems not working together, technical breakdowns, lack of trained staff);
  - 3) opportunities to improve OH&S performance (what can make your workplace safer or your working practices healthier?; e.g. getting rid of faulty equipment or making sure workers take regular breaks during their working day); and
  - 4) opportunities to improve the management system (what can make all of the parts of the organization's system work better together?; e.g. better communication about what to do and how to do it or what has changed, sharing knowledge and getting all workers involved).
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## 1 Scope

This British Standard provides guidance on the identification and management of risks and opportunities in an OH&S management system.

This British Standard can assist organizations in meeting the relevant requirements of BS ISO 45001, *Occupational health and safety management systems*. It does not add to, subtract from, or in any way modify the requirements of BS ISO 45001, nor does it prescribe mandatory approaches to implementation.

The British Standard is suitable for use by any organization regardless of type, size or maturity.

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## 2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

*NOTE* Organizations can use this document without direct reference to BS ISO 45001, however, organizations that wish to claim conformity to BS ISO 45001 need to refer directly to BS ISO 45001 when using this document.

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## 3 Terms and definitions

### COMMENTARY ON CLAUSE 3

*There are a number of terms defined in BS ISO 45001, including commonly used terms. However, when using BS ISO 45001 it is important to take note of these technical definitions to ensure there is no misunderstanding in its application. For example, small businesses do not always realize that the term "organization" refers to small businesses as well as larger companies (or public bodies, charities, etc).*