317,000,000 – that is the number of annual on-the-job accidents worldwide, according to the International Labor Organization (ILO). A horrible figure in the light of the many lives that have been affected, but also alarming in respect of the costs organizations have to bear on account of working time lost – not to mention the burden placed on social systems for treatment and disability payments.

An increasing number of companies throughout the world choose to implement occupational health and safety management systems. And wherever that happens, both number and severity of on-the-job accidents and job-related health damage decline sharply. In these companies, workplace health and safety is considered a management responsibility, in order to take better care of employees and to set an example for others. Simultaneously, corporate perspective is shifting more and more towards a process-oriented, holistic view of jobs and work flows, now viewing them from a quality, environmental, and workplace safety perspective.

The easy compatibility of BS OHSAS with ISO 9001 (Quality Management) and ISO 14001 (Environmental Management) significantly facilitates implementation and certification of integrated management systems, thus allowing for the use of synergies. Integrated management systems of this kind are fundamental tools of corporate management; their use demonstrates acceptance of responsibility – for the good of humanity, society, and each organization.

BS OHSAS 18001 particularly emphasizes the protection of health by means of prevention and long-term maintenance. Achieving this requires involving employees in hazard analysis, the specification of training measures, and all other matters relevant to occupational health and safety.
Conformity and value generation

As part of the global DQS group with more than 57,000 certified locations worldwide, we are one of the most experienced providers of audit services and certifications of management systems and processes. We perform our audits in almost all areas of any business or industry sector.

DQS is accredited for BS OHSAS 18001:2007 and therefore authorized to perform assessments based on this standard, and to issue accredited certificates that are valid anywhere in the world. The accreditation applies to all 39 business sectors according to the EAC system.

In addition to a comprehensive certification the auditing of individual aspects can also be helpful. While determining these aspects, it is necessary to consider the interaction of standard requirements. The auditing of operational controls, for example, only makes sense when the legal situation and the risk analysis are also considered.

At the end of 2016 the globally recognized British Standard BS OHSAS 18001 will be replaced by the new ISO 45001 OHS (Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems Requirements) and will then follow the so-called High Level Structure (HLS), just like the recently revised ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001: 2015.