

## ISO 45005 - GUIDELINES FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DURING COVID-19

As of February 2021, Covid-19 (SARS-CoV-2) continues to have a firm grip on the world. Not only in private everyday life, but also and especially in the workplace, the risk of infection is high. Strict adherence to rules of conduct and official regulations is the be-all and end-all to protect oneself and others from the disease. In the workplace, however, one thing is particularly important: the ability of organizations to respond quickly and flexibly to changing situations. While the standard makes specific reference to the Corona pandemic, its approach is appropriate for any similar type of infectious event and, as a result, will help organizations prepare for and deal with such events in the long term.

**ISO/PAS 45005: Occupational health and safety management - General guidelines for safe working during the COVID-19 pandemic** was published in English in December 2020. This publicly available specification (PAS) provides international occupational health and safety (OSHA) guidelines aimed at managing the effects of the Corona pandemic in the workplace. The document may be viewed free of charge in full on the ISO website ([www.iso.org/standard/64286.html](http://www.iso.org/standard/64286.html)).

According to the ISO, this standard also contributes to the Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations. These SDG for short are a call for action by all countries – poor, rich and middle-income – to promote prosperity while protecting the planet. They recognize that ending poverty must go hand-in-hand with strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health, social protection, and job opportunities, while tackling climate change and environmental protection.

Based on the BSI Safe Working Guidance of May 2020, ISO 45005 contains 14 chapters and two annexes, A and B. These hold practical considerations for those looking to implement COVID-19 measures in an organization. The numbering of the chapters of the ISO 45005 guide does not coincide with the common basic structure (HLS) of ISO management system standards, e.g. ISO 45001. Nevertheless, a clear correlations can be drawn.

**CHAPTERS 4 TO 8: PLAN WHAT THE ORGANIZATION NEEDS TO WORK SAFELY**

**CHAPTERS 9 TO 12: CARRY OUT THE PLANNED ACTION.**

**CHAPTER 13: CHECK THAT THE MEASURES ARE WORKING**

**CHAPTER 14: IDENTIFY POSSIBLE WEAKNESSES AND SOLUTIONS**



### ISO 45005 - GREAT BENEFITS FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION

The international guideline focuses on a risk- and practice-oriented approach:

- Compact presentation focusing on pandemic situations.
- Assessment of risks associated with pandemics (specifically COVID-19)
- Practical guidance on how to deal with risks
- Examples of how to implement measures
- Inclusion of multiple locations
- Reduction of illness-related absences even for more benign infections
- Support in the preparation of response plans with a view to change
- Integration of the guidelines into the PDCA cycle of an existing management systems based on ISO standards
- Regular adaptation to changing situations

### ISO 45005 TAKES EFFECT AT MANAGEMENT LEVEL

Companies of any industry, type and size can implement the guidelines to improve health protection for their employees, as well as other interested parties, in times of pandemic. The guidance addresses the pandemic situation in companies at the management level: risk-based and with practical guidance on possible actions. The global guidelines are equally helpful for those companies that are resuming operations or completely reopening after a pandemic-related closure. Users of ISO management system standards, but especially those of the international standard for occupational safety and health (OSHA), DIN ISO 45001, may integrate the guidelines directly into their management system via the PDCA cycle.

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