

OHSE- ENVIRONMENT SAFETY

1 This Occupational Health and Safety Assessment Series (OHSAS) Standard specifies requirements for an occupational health and safety (OH&S) management system, to enable an organization to control its OH&S risks and improve its OH&S performance. It does not state specific OH&S performance criteria, nor does it give detailed specifications for the design of a management system. This OHSAS Standard is applicable to any organization that wishes to:

- (a) Establish an OH&S management system to eliminate or minimize risks to personnel and other interested parties who could be exposed to OH&S hazards associated with its activities.
- (b) Implement, maintain and continually improve an OH&S management system.
- (c) Assure itself of its conformity with its stated OH&S policy
- (d) Demonstrate conformity with this OHSAS Standard by:
making a self-determination and self-declaration or seeking confirmation of its conformance by parties having an interest in the organization, such as customers or seeking confirmation of its self-declaration by a party external to the organization.

2 The environment (the air, land and water around us) provides the conditions for developing and sustaining all forms of life. Unfortunately, we sometimes use our environment as the dustbin for everything we don't want.

3. Some of the factors which influence an organisation's effect on the environment are:

- (a) Location
- (b) Supplies required
- (c) Work activities
- (d) Products
- (e) Waste

4. An organisation's impact on the environment could come from one single event. An organisation's impact on the environment could come from one single event.

5. Pollution is the release of substances or energy into the environment that can contaminate air, land and water. Each year there are approximately 97 water pollution incidents. Each year there are approximately 97 water pollution incidents, 18 land pollution incidents and 5 air pollution incidents which have a major impact on the environment.

How can you control pollution and waste?

6. Once you've identified how your organisation affects the environment, you'll need to establish which issues require specific management. One way to do this is with a risk assessment: find out the likelihood of the occurrence of harmful activities, and their consequences. The ways of dealing with pollutants and waste will depend on a number of factors:

- (a) The potential impact of the pollutant.
- (b) Legal requirements.
- (c) Best practice developments.
- (d) Stakeholder/societal concerns.
- (e) Values and policies.
- (f) Economic issues.