

## Hotlinks

### ANSI

American National Standards Institute  
[www.ansi.org](http://www.ansi.org)

### ASSE

American Society of Safety Engineers  
[www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org)

### ASTM

ASTM International  
[www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

### CEN

European Committee for Standardization  
[www.cenorm.be](http://www.cenorm.be)

### ISO

International Organization for Standardization  
[www.iso.org](http://www.iso.org)

### JCAHO

Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations  
[www.jcaho.org](http://www.jcaho.org)

### NFPA

National Fire Protection Assn.  
[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

### NIST

National Institute of Standards and Technology  
[www.nist.gov](http://www.nist.gov)

### SCC

Standards Council of Canada  
[www.scc.ca](http://www.scc.ca)

### UL

Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
[www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)

## Solving the Mystery: A Summary of OHSAS 18000, ISO 18000 & ISO/IEC JTC-1/SC31

Over the past six months, ASSE has received several inquiries about ISO 18000. Those seeking this information have been attempting to research guidelines on safety management and have been incorrectly led to ISO 18000. It is a common misconception among SH&E practitioners that the British Standards Institute's (BSI) Occupational Health and Safety Management Series (OHSAS) 18000, 18001 and 18002 is associated with ISO 18000 and 18001. To correct this misconception, a review of both OHSAS 18000 and ISO 18000 is necessary.

### OHSAS 18000

The OHSAS 18000 series includes two different documents: OHSAS 18001:1999, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems: Specifications; and OHSAS 18002:2000, Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems: Guidelines for the Implementation of OHSAS 18001. In most cases, those asking about ISO 18000 are actually looking for the information contained within OHSAS 18000.

OHSAS 18001 is essentially an assessment specification for developing an OHS management system to control risks and improve performance. It does not offer specific performance criteria, nor does it give detailed specifications for the design of a management system. OHSAS 18001 also explains how the OHS management system can be maintained while responding to both internal and external influences. It is designed to be compatible with other safety management systems standards and specifications such as ISO 9001 Quality Management Systems, and ISO 14001, Environmental, in order to facilitate the integration of quality, environmental and OHS management systems.

### ISO 18000

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) does not currently provide information on its website regarding standards still in draft form. The document that is often confused with OHSAS 18000 is ISO 18000, Information Technology: Radio Frequency Identification Standard for Item Management-Air Interface. In essence, this project is a series of draft standards that will deliver information and set parameters for air interface communications when finalized.

The project is also identified as ISO 18000/International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Joint Technical Committee (JTC)-1/Subcommittee (SC) 31 or ISO 18000/IEC JTC-1/SC31. The JTC is unique in that it is currently the only ISO document which is a joint project between ISO and IEC. SC 31, Automatic Identification and Data Capture Techniques, is made up of four individual working groups. The ISO 18000 project is part of Working Group 4, Radio-Frequency Identification for Item Management. Its objective is to provide standards for interoperability of noncontact omni-directional wireless radio frequency identification devices that can store, transmit and receive data while in operation.

As noted, ISO 18000 is administrated jointly by ISO and IEC; however, the actual breakdown of the administrative process is as follows:

- The Uniform Code Council holds the International Capacity or secretariat to JTC-1/SC31.
- The Information Technology Council currently holds the US TAG administrative duties to JTC-1.
- Food Marketing Institute currently holds the US TAG administrative duties to SC 31.

The family of draft standards includes:

- ISO 18000-1, Generic Parameters for Air Interface Communication for Globally Accepted Frequencies
- ISO 18000-2, Parameters for Air Interface Communications below 135 KHz
- ISO 18000-3, Parameters for Air Interface Communications at 13.56 MHz
- ISO 18000-4, Parameters for Air Interface Communications at 2.45 GHz
- ISO 18000-5, Parameters for Air Interface Communications at 5.8 GHz
- ISO 18000-6, Parameters for Air Interface Communications at UHF
- ISO 18000-7, Parameters for Air Interface Communications at 433.92 MHz
- ISO 18001, Information Technology: AIDC Techniques-RFID for Item Management: Application Requirements Profiles.

## ANSI Z117.1 Revision Coming This Spring

The public review for the ANSI Z117.1 draft standard, which is a revision of the 1995 standard, ended in July 2002. The committee is now reviewing final comments and addressing outstanding issues. The revision was significant and will most likely impact both ASSE members and nonmembers in the SH&E profession.

The standard provides minimum safety requirements to be followed while entering, exiting and working in confined spaces at normal atmospheric pressure. It does not pertain to underground mining, tunneling, caisson work or similar tasks that are already covered by established national consensus standards.

Comments regarding the new draft standard have been compiled by the secretariat and submitted to the attention of the ANSI Z117.1 committee. The committee's goal is to complete its review shortly, so the standard can be released later this spring.

For more information on Z117.1, contact ASSE's Customer Service Dept. at (847) 699 2929 or visit [www.asse.org](http://www.asse.org).