

Compliance with the Swiss standard SN EN ISO 45001:2023

Explanations for SQS customers

The Swiss standard SN EN ISO 45001:2023

In August 2023, a new Swiss version of the ISO standard for safety and health at work was published: SN EN ISO 45001:2023. It replaced SN ISO 45001:2018. The changes were not of a content-related nature. They were limited to editorial changes that the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) had decided on and were incorporated into the Swiss standard for compatibility purposes.

In particular, it was about:

1. The replacement of the «National Foreword» by the «European Foreword»;
2. The addition of a third level to the table of contents;
3. The addition of a second, national footnote;
4. The consistent replacement of the term «danger» with «hazard»;
5. The consistent replacement of the term «evaluation» with «assessment» (e.g. in chapter 6. and A.6.1.2);
6. Several textual adjustments throughout the standard that were necessary due to the translation from English into German.

Important: Clauses 1 to 6 refer to the German version of the standard. Clauses 1 and 2 also refer to the French and English versions. There is no Italian version of SN EN ISO 45001:2023.

Consequences for accreditation and certification bodies and certificate holders

Due to these changes, various accreditation bodies in Europe have adopted guidelines regarding their country-specific standard. The Swiss Accreditation Service (SAS) has not adopted any guidelines regarding the transition to SN EN ISO 45001:2023, nor will it offer accreditation for this version of the standard.

Holders of a certificate accredited in Switzerland in accordance with ISO 45001:2018 and certification bodies such as SQS therefore do not need to take any action. International recognition is guaranteed by SAS's membership in the international bodies IAF (International Accreditation Forum) and EA (European Accreditation).

In this context, it is relevant that an ISO working group is currently discussing the extent to which ISO 45001:2018 should be revised and thus also materially further developed. In this respect, we at SQS welcome the fact that the SAS is not requesting any adjustments for the time being. This will prevent the planned revision by ISO from necessitating two adaptations within a short space of time, which would be costly and time-consuming.

Support from SQS

SQS will again provide information should the SAS and/or ISO make decisions that are relevant to the certifiability of SQS customers in accordance with ISO 45001:2018. At the same time, the lead auditors are available to our customers for questions and information.



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