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 ${\bf Occupational\ health\ and\ safety\ management-Guidelines\ for\ organizations\ on\ preventing\ and\ managing\ infectious\ diseases}$

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Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular, the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see www.iso.org/directives).

Attention is drawn SO draws attention to the possibility that some of the elements implementation of this document may be involve the subjectuse of (a) patent(s). ISO takes no position concerning the evidence, validity or applicability of any claimed patent rights in respect thereof. As of the date of publication of this document, ISO had not received notice of (a) patent(s) which may be required to implement this document. However, implementers are cautioned that this may not represent the latest information, which may be obtained from the patent database available at www.iso.org/patents, ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see).

Any trade name used in this document is information given for the convenience of users and does not constitute an endorsement.

For an explanation of the voluntary nature of standards, the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the World Trade Organization (WTO) principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), see www.iso.org/iso/foreword.html.

This document was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 283, Occupational health and safety management.

Any feedback or questions on this document should be directed to the user's national standards body. A complete listing of these bodies can be found at www.iso.org/members.html.

Introduction

Infectious diseases are increasingly recognized as major challenges to health, safety and well-being. Decisions and activities relating to the prevention and management of infectious diseases affect workers within the organization and other people who visit a workplace, come into contact with workers, or can be affected by the organization's activities. This document is a response to the risks that infectious diseases present to workers and other relevant interested parties (e.g. customers, the public, suppliers, workers from other organizations, family members and other personal contacts).

There is a broad range of infectious diseases with potential impacts on health, safety and well-being, which can vary from very mild to very serious depending on the nature of the infectious disease. Key characteristics of infectious diseases (see Clause 5) are a major factor in the risk posed to workers and other relevant interested parties.

Some infectious diseases are non-contagious and infect only the individual who contracts the disease and do not usually transmit from human to human (e.g. *legionellosis* or malaria), while others are contagious and have the potential to spread from a single individual to infect others (e.g. influenza, COVID-19, smallpox, hepatitis, *salmonellosis*, tuberculosis, Ebola and HIV/AIDS), up to and including a pandemic spread of the disease.

The impact in terms of severity of infectious diseases can vary from person to person depending on underlying health conditions (e.g. asthma, diabetes, obesity, strength of immune system) and factors such as age, sex, and socio-economic situation. Impacts can be more severe where one or more such circumstances exist.

This document provides guidelines to prevent or reduce exposure to, and transmission of, infectious agents and to manage risks to workers and other relevant interested parties from infectious diseases. It supports the principle that workers should not be required to work in settings without implementation of appropriate prevention and controls.

The guidance is generic and applicable to organizations regardless of the nature of business, service provision, size or complexity. It recognizes that many smaller organizations do not have dedicated departments or functions such as occupational health and safety (OH&S), facilities management, human resources or infectious disease specialists. More detailed information for specific functions is available from professional bodies and a wide range of national and international standards.

Organizations using ISO 45001 can use this document to improve OH&S management by relating the relevant clauses to the PDCA cycle:

- ___Plan: plan what needs to be done for the organization to work safely;
- ____Do: do what the organization has planned to do;
- ___Check: see how well it is working;
- Act: take actions to improve or change controls that are not effective.

Taking a systems approach facilitates the coordination of resources and efforts and will enable organizations to better manage the risk from infectious diseases, by ensuring they are included in to existing OH&S processes.

This document is not intended to be a single step-by-step set of recommendations. It provides guidelines to enable ongoing continual improvement and to ensure the organization responds to incidents of infectious diseases, including epidemics and pandemics.

This document is designed to complement ISO 45001 by providing guidelines that align with the requirements of that standard. ISO 45001. This document can be used independently, by any organization, to improve OH&S performance.

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Occupational health and safety management — Guidelines for organizations on preventing and managing infectious diseases

1 Scope

This document gives guidelines for organizations on how to prevent or control exposure to infectious agents at the workplace and manage the risks associated with infectious diseases that:

- present a risk of severe ill health or death and can impact the health, safety and well-being of workers and other relevant interested parties;
- present a lower risk to health yet have a significant impact on the organization, its workers and other relevant interested parties.

This document is applicable to organizations of all sizes and sectors.

NOTE —This document does not provide comprehensive guidance to those parts of an organization that implement mandated infection controls such as hospitals and medical or biological laboratories because there is an inherent potential for exposure to infectious diseases. Applicable legislation and guidance is provided by government, regulators and health authorities for specific infection controls for the protection of workers in such settings and for work activities on or with pathogenic microorganisms.

2 Normative references

There are no normative references in this document.

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their content constitutes requirements of this document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies. For undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

 $\underline{\textbf{ISO 45001:2018.} \textit{Occupational health and safety management systems} -- \textit{Requirements with guidance fo} \\ \underline{\textit{use}}$

3 Terms and definitions

Except where a definition is provided belowFor the purposes of this document, the terms and definitions given in ISO 45001:2018 and the following apply.

ISO and IEC maintain terminology databases for use in standardization at the following addresses:

- ___ISO Online browsing platform: available at https://www.iso.org/obp
- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/
- IEC Electropedia: available at https://www.electropedia.org/

3.1

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workplace

place where a person needs to be or to go for work purposes

Note 1 to entry: The organization's responsibilities for the workplace depend on the degree of control over the workplace.

Note 2 to entry: Workplaces can be inside or outside and include the worker's own home, other people's homes, personal vehicles, vehicles provided by the organization, other organizations' facilities and public spaces.

[SOURCE: ISO 45001:2018, 3.6, modified — "under the control of the organization" <u>has been</u> deleted from the definition. "under the OH&S management system" <u>has been</u> deleted from Note 1 to entry. and Note 2 to entry <u>has been</u> added.]

3.2

legal requirements and other requirements

legal requirements that an organization has to comply with and other requirements that an organization has to or chooses to comply with

[SOURCE: ISO 45001:2018, 3.9, modified. Notes 1, 2 and 3 to entry have been deleted.]

3.3

top management

person or group of people who directs and controls an organization at the highest level

[SOURCE: ISO 45001:2018, 3.12, modified-— Notes 1, 2 and 3 to entry have been deleted.]

3.4

incident
occurrence arising out of, or in the course of, work that could or does result in injury and ill health

Note 1 to entry: In this document, ""injury and ill health" refers to contracting an *infectious disease* (3.8) or any identifiable, adverse physical or psychological condition arising from or associated with an infectious disease.

[SOURCE: ISO 45001:2018, modified — Note 1 to entry has been replaced, and Notes 4, 2 and 3 to entry have been deleted. New Note 1 to entry added.]

3.5

personal protective equipment

PPE

device or appliance designed to be worn by an individual for their protection against one or more health and safety hazards

Note 1 to entry: PPE includes, but is not limited to, gowns, gloves, respirators, safety glasses, helmets and goggles.

Note 2 to entry: While generally not considered PPE, masks, and other *face coverings* (3.6) can provide a level of protection for the user in addition to their primary purpose as a public health measure to control the spread of transmission and infection.

Note 3 to entry: In many countries, PPE is required to conform to national regulations.

[SOURCE: ISO 15384:2018, 3.12, modified — the words _ "or held" have been deleted after "worn" and "their" has been added before "protection" to in the definition _, and Notes 1. 2 and 3 to entry have been added.]

3.6

face covering

facepiece that covers the mouth, nose and chin

EXAMPLE 'community masks', 'hygiene masks', 'barrier masks', and 'comfort masks' are all examples of face coverings.

Note 1 to Entry: Face coverings in the context of this document are not considered to be *personal protective equipment* (*PPE*) (3.5) or a medical device.

[SOURCE: CWA 17553:2020, 2.3, modified—"community" deleted from the term. "fitted with the head harness which can be head or ears attachment" deleted from the definition. Note 1 to entry added.]

3.7

well-being

fulfilment of the physical, mental and cognitive needs and expectations of a worker related to their work

Note 1 to entry: Well-being can also contribute to the quality of life outside of work.

Note 2 to entry: Well-being relates to all aspects of working life, including work organization, social factors at work, work environment, equipment and hazardous tasks.

[SOURCE: ISO 45003:2021, 3.2, modified — "at work" <u>has been</u> deleted after "well-being" from the term and Notes 1 and 2 to entry <u>have been added.</u>]

3.8

common areasarea

spaces space and amenities amenity provided for the use of more than one person

EXAMPLE Canteens, lifts/elevators, stairs, reception areas, meeting rooms, areas of worship, toilets, gardens, fire escapes, kitchens, fitness facilities, store rooms, laundry facilities.

Note 1 to entry: Common areas can include spaces and amenities used by more than one organization.

Note 2 to entry: Common areas can include spaces and amenities where people are working.

[SOURCE: ISO/PAS 45005:2020, 3.11, modified——— the term "common areas" has been changed to "common area", "spaces and amenities" has been changed to "space and amenity" in the definition, and Notes 1 and 2 to entry have been added.]

3.9

infectious disease

condition caused by agents such as bacteria, viruses, prion, parasites or fungi that can spread, directly or indirectly, and that can result in ill-health

Note 1 to entry: In this document, "infectious disease" refers to those diseases described in the Scope (see Clause 1):a disease that:

- presents a risk of severe ill health or death and can impact the health, safety and well-being (3.7) of worker and other relevant interested parties;
- presents a lower risk to health yet have a significant impact on the organization, its workers and other relevan
 interested parties.

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