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Occupational health and safety management — Risks arising from climate change and climate change action — Guidance for organizations

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Management de la santé et de la sécurité au travail — Risques dus aux changements climatiques et action contre le changement climatique — Recommandations pour les organisations

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Foreword

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Introduction

Climate change poses significant challenges to organizations worldwide, impacting not only the environment but also occupational health and safety (OH&S), meaning that it is important that organizations proactively address the OH&S challenges arising from climate change and climate change actions. This document provides comprehensive guidance for organizations to manage these risks and opportunities effectively.

This document is intended for all organizations, whether or not they have implemented informal or formal OH&S management system such as ISO 45001. Such a management system includes the relevant elements of a Plan-Do-Check-Act (PDCA) system. Taking a systems approach facilitates the coordination of resources and efforts, which is important in managing climate change.

This document will assist organizations to better understand the impacts of climate change and climate change actions on OH&S and to create resilient and sustainable work environments that protect the health and safety of workers.

It encompasses OH&S risks resulting from climate change itself, as well as those arising from climate change adaptation efforts, such as changes in work processes or infrastructure upgrades, and those associated with climate change mitigation efforts aimed at reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) effects or an organization's carbon footprint.

It also highlights the opportunities to enhance workplace health and safety through proactive measures.

Due to the nature of the subject, many definitions and concepts have been imported from the fields of climate change science and adapted to the context of hazard identification and assessment and control of OH&S risks, with focus on both health and safety impacts and opportunities.

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