Requirements to hold safety management system for class A asbestos licence holders

The NSW State Government has released a position paper that outlines the requirement to hold a safety management system for class A asbestos license holders.

This position paper confirms that safety management systems certified against AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 are deemed equivalent to systems certified by AS/NZS 4801:2001 (Occupational health and safety management systems).

**SWNSW position**
The Work Health & Safety Regulation 2017 (WHS Reg) requires all Class A friable asbestos license holders to have a certified safety management system in place. A certified safety management system (CSMS) means a safety management system that complies with AS/NZS 4801:2001 (Occupational health and safety management systems), or an equivalent system determined by the regulator.

**Background**
AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 was published on 17 October 2018 and is listed as superseding AS/NZS 4801:2001. SafeWork NSW has determined that systems certified against either standard will be accepted as evidence of a compliant system on license application or renewal.

Current Class A Friable license holders with a CSMS against AS/NZS 4801:2001 will continue to be recognised until License renewal. Prior to expiry of the certification or the license they should be assessed against the newer standard AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018.

**Current systems deemed equivalent**
- AS/NZS 4801:2001 (Occupational health and safety management systems - Specification with guidance for use)
- AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018 (Occupational health and safety management systems - Requirements with guidance for use)
- NSW Government Procurement Work Health and Safety Management system accreditation, or

A search register is located on the Exemplar Global website and can be used by anyone looking for a certified auditor around the world. [https://exemplarglobal.org/certification/what-we-offer/search-for-certified-individuals-or-organizations/](https://exemplarglobal.org/certification/what-we-offer/search-for-certified-individuals-or-organizations/)

SafeWork NSW requires that your CSMS (or equivalent) remains current for the duration of your Class A asbestos removal license (for a 5-year period). If your CSMS expires prior to your Class A asbestos removal license, you must immediately renew it. Failure to hold a current CSMS (or equivalent) in place may result in suspension or cancellation of your license.


David W Solomon
Executive Officer Safety & Risk
Chairman SF-001 Standards Australia for Occupational Health and Safety Management