Standards reclassifies AS/NZS 4801

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Standards Australia (SA) has classified *AS/NZS 4801:2001, Occupational health and safety management systems* as "available superseded", meaning it has been formally superseded by another Standard but is being maintained because it is referenced in safety laws and codes.

SA said it is up to government authorities to determine whether available superseded Standards like AS/NZS 4801 should continue to be referenced in legislation.

But a member of SA's OHS management technical committee, David Solomon, stressed that *AS/NZS ISO 45001:2018, Occupational health and safety management systems – Requirements with guidance for use* "is the most current Standard for safety management systems, and should be considered by organisations wishing to maintain a contemporary safety management system".

As reported by *OHS Alert*, the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) published the new Standard in March last year, providing an "easy-to-use framework" that "concentrates on the

interaction between an organisation and its business environment", instead of focusing on specific hazards and "internal issues" (see related article).

SA adapted and published the Standard as AS/NZS ISO 45001 in October, noting that AS/NZS 4801 "will remain current until such time as it's determined by regulators and a broad range of stakeholders to be otherwise" (see related article).

Since that time, the technical committee has met many times to discuss the new and old Standards and how they interact with Australian laws, and declared AS/NZS 4801 as available superseded after "much consideration", Solomon said.

"AS/NZS ISO 45001 has given health and safety professionals in organisations of any size a new way to help manage the many safety risks in workplaces across the country," SA stakeholder engagement head Daniel Chidgey said.