



TOP COMPLIANCE (Pty) Ltd

Your Business' Safety Is Our Concern

QSE B-BBEE - Level Four

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Enhancing OHS compliance via external audits

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) is a critical component of workplace management in South Africa. The primary aim is to ensure that employees operate in a safe environment, mitigating risks and preventing workplace injuries and illnesses. One of the essential mechanisms to uphold OHS standards is through external audits. These audits offer an objective evaluation of a company's adherence to regulatory requirements and best practices, playing a pivotal role in enhancing compliance and overall workplace safety.

Understanding external audits

External audits are evaluations conducted by independent entities not affiliated with the organization being audited. These audits assess various aspects of a company's operations, including its health and safety practices. In South Africa, external auditors are often accredited by recognized bodies such as the [South African Institute of Occupational Safety and Health](#) (SAIOSH) and are knowledgeable about legislation ([Occupational Health and Safety Act, 85 of 1993](#)) and the various regulations.

The Role of external audits in OHS compliance

1. External auditors bring an unbiased perspective, free from internal politics and biases that may exist within the company. This objectivity ensures a truthful and comprehensive assessment of the company's OHS practices.
2. Auditors identify areas where the company may be falling short of legal and regulatory requirements. This includes lapses in safety protocols, inadequate training, improper use of safety equipment, and insufficient documentation.
3. By leveraging their industry expertise, external auditors can compare a company's practices against industry standards and best practices. This benchmarking provides valuable insights into areas where the company can improve its safety protocols.
4. Regular external audits create a culture of accountability within the organization. Knowing that their practices will be subject to independent review, employees and management are more likely to adhere strictly to safety procedures.
5. Through detailed assessments, auditors help companies identify potential hazards and risks that may not have been apparent. This proactive approach allows companies to address these risks before they lead to accidents or injuries.

6. Audits are not merely about compliance; they also focus on continuous improvement. External auditors provide recommendations and actionable insights that help organizations enhance their OHS management systems continually.
7. Demonstrating a commitment to OHS through regular external audits can bolster the company's reputation. Stakeholders, including employees, clients, and investors, are more likely to trust and engage with a company that prioritizes health and safety.
8. [Non-compliance with OHS](#) regulations can result in severe legal and financial consequences, including fines, lawsuits, and compensation claims. External audits help mitigate these risks by ensuring compliance, thereby protecting the company from potential liabilities.
9. OHS compliance audits and certificates are a requirement for many regulatory bodies.

Implementing effective external audits

To maximise the benefits of external audits, South African companies should consider the following steps:

1. Choose [auditors who are Graduate members of SAIOSH](#) and have a good understanding of industry-specific challenges.
2. Define a clear and comprehensive scope for the audit, covering all relevant aspects of OHS, from policy evaluation to on-site inspections.
3. Foster a culture where employees [understand the importance of audits](#) and actively participate in the process. Their input and cooperation are crucial for an accurate assessment.
4. Treat audit findings as opportunities for improvement. Develop and implement action plans to address identified issues promptly.
5. Conduct audits at regular intervals at least annually, to ensure ongoing compliance and continuous improvement in OHS practices.

[External audits](#) are indispensable for ensuring occupational health and safety compliance in South Africa. They provide an objective, thorough, and professional evaluation of a company's safety practices, identifying areas for improvement and helping to mitigate risks. By committing to regular external audits, South African companies can enhance their OHS standards, protect their workforce, and build a safer, more productive working environment.

"Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) compliance is crucial as it ensures a safe working environment, reduces workplace injuries and illnesses, boosts employee morale, and enhances productivity. Compliance with OHS regulations not only protects workers but also minimizes legal liabilities and operational disruptions for businesses."

For more information contact us on info@topcompliance.co.za

[Occupational
health and
safety auditing
and consulting](#)



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safety
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First aid equipment	Signage	Legal posters	Safety Equipment

Courses offered by Top Compliance (Pty) Ltd

ONLINE ACADEMY - https://academy.topcompliance.co.za/		
Occupational Health and Safety Courses	Online	Onsite Excluding travel
Safety representative – Legal Liability	R980.00	R1200.00
The Occupational Health and Safety Act & responsibilities of management – Legal Liability	R1250.00	R 1600.00
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	R735.00	R810.00
Food facility health & safety course in terms of R638	R735.00	R810.00
Basic Ladder Safety Course	R735.00	R810.00
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses		
Fire Marshal - Basic firefighting	R735.00	R810.00
Fire & Evacuation marshal - Basic firefighting with emergency action planning	R810.00	R905.00

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Occupational Health and Safety Courses		
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The Occupational Health and Safety Act & responsibilities of management – Legal Liability		
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment		
Food facility health & safety course in terms of R638		
Basic Ladder Safety Course		
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses		
Fire Marshal - Basic firefighting		
Fire & Evacuation marshal - Basic firefighting with emergency action planning		

ONSITE TRAINING	
First Aid Courses:	
Level 1 - US 119567 - Perform basic life support and first aid procedures	2 days
Level 2 - US 120496 - Provide risk-based primary emergency care/first aid in the workplace	3 days
Level 3 - US 376480 - Provide first aid as an advanced first responder	3 days
Level 1 & 2 - US 119567 & 120496	3 days
Level 1, 2 & 3 - US 119567, 120496 & 376480	5 days
Level 2 & 3 - US 120496 & 376480	3 days

Child and infant CPR & choking	6 hours
Adult CPR & choking	6 hours
Adult CPR & choking and AED	1 day
Occupational Health and Safety Courses	
Safety representative – Legal Liability	1 day
The Occupational Health and Safety Act & responsibilities of management – Legal Liability	1 day
Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment	1 day
Food facility health & safety course in terms of R638	6 hours
Basic Ladder Safety	6 hours
Fire Fighting and Prevention Courses	
Fire Marshal - Basic firefighting	6 hours
Fire & Evacuation marshal - Basic firefighting with emergency action planning	1 day