

2018 Audit Specifications – What have we changed?

Our vision is to ensure that no-one is injured or made ill at work.

One of the ways we try to achieve this is by leading the development and sharing of best practice. So, every year, through our array of research, audit data, interaction with our members and collaboration with our Sector Interest Groups, we gather information on best practice in health, safety and environmental management to develop our specifications. This year's specifications run from 1 September 2018 and this document will help you understand those changes.

1. How do the new specifications differ from last year?

Last year's specifications consisted of five sections. Two of the sections which related to planning have been amalgamated, meaning that the specifications now consist of four sections. Accordingly, some of the specific elements within the sections have been consolidated or moved to a different section.

2. Why is the audit now structured into four sections?

To align with the Plan, Do, Check, Act model and fully incorporate the requirements of relevant ISO management standards. The changes have been made in line with feedback from clients and auditors. It demonstrates our commitment to continually improve our audit services and reflects developments in best practice in an improved structure.

3. Do the new specifications make it more difficult to achieve a five-star rating?

No. As best practice is dynamic, organisations with continually improving SHE management systems should satisfy the specification requirements. The specification itself is a useful guide for all SHE professionals to model continuous improvement and best practice.

4. I had a pre-audit against a previous specification. Will the findings still be valid?

Yes. The pre-audit process reviews key areas which remain integral within the new specifications.

5. Will the reduction to four sections affect the scope or duration of the audit?

No. We have re-engineered the audit elements to fit into four logical sections, we have not reduced the requirements and rigour of the specifications, so the same amount of time will be required to carry out an audit where the scope remains the same.

6. How will the new specifications affect my Sword or Globe of Honor application(s)?

The Sword and Globe of Honor application processes will be unaffected.

7. How will I be able to map elements from previous specifications?

As the new structure is based on Plan, Do, Check, Act it has been designed to help you approach your audit preparations in line with how your management systems are logically structured and should assist with the preparation process. Our Audit Team are on hand to assist with specific enquiries about the changes which can be directed to support.audit@britsafe.org.