



NEW REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

The principle of SHEQ management is an old one, but new standards and the onset of digitalisation are shaking things up, writes **RODNEY WEIDEMANN**

Since the vast majority of accidents in the workplace are caused by unsafe acts by employees, health and safety regulations are vital for any company. Your employees' health and safety should always be at the forefront of your decision-making, and ensuring compliance with safety, health, environment and quality (SHEQ) rules is thus crucial.

According to Joep Joubert, group manager of BBF SHEQ Services, SHEQ policy is indeed the guiding document in the organisation to direct the efforts in this regard. "All policies, if they are to meet the requirements of the ISO Management Systems Standards, must address the provision for a safe and healthy work environment, protection against environmental impact and a commitment to quality. A SHEQ policy should establish a framework to ensure legal compliance and within which objectives are formulated."



Ingrid Osborne

Joubert says the policy should also indicate a commitment to eliminating risks, addressing environmental aspects and not compromising on quality. "Furthermore, the policy should commit the organisation to continual improvement, consultation and communication."

Ingrid Osborne, co-founder and CEO of Saryx Engineering Group, explains that with old, paper-based SHEQ files, complete compliance has always been extremely difficult. It was for this reason that her company developed its own online health, safety, environment and compliance tool to

ensure better compliance. "Having an online tool makes the auditing process much simpler, which is vital, since auditing is critical to ensure effective SHEQ. Auditors help companies to identify where they are non-compliant, allowing them to close these gaps. Such a tool also enables you to measure your progress around what corrective measures are put in place. >

DID YOU KNOW?

SHEQ, which is the acronym for Safety, Health, Environment and Quality, simply refers to the integration of the 3 basic management systems – ISO 14001, OHSAS 18001 (now ISO 45001) and ISO 9001.

Source: wwise.co.za