

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

# Health and Safety

**The term Health and Safety is generally used to mean an employer should:**

- Promote and maintain the mental, physical and social well-being of employees
- Protect employees and others affected by an organisation's activities to harm from risk
- Establish a management framework to implement policies and achieve continual improvement in health and safety

# What is Health and Safety

**Health:** The protection of the bodies and minds of people from illness resulting from the materials, processes or procedures used in the workplace

**Safety:** The protection of people from physical injury

# The differences between Safety and Health

The dictionary defines the words health and safety as follows:

Health - the condition of body or mind

Safety - not being exposed to danger or risks

In industry, Health and Safety means preventing accidents and work related ill health.

# The differences between Safety and Health

## Safety

Slips, trips, falls

Falls from height

Struck by vehicles

Contact with electricity

Contact with moving  
parts

## Health

Exposure to  
hazardous chemicals

Exposure to  
asbestos, dusts, etc.

Repetitive strain  
injuries

# Definitions used in Health and Safety

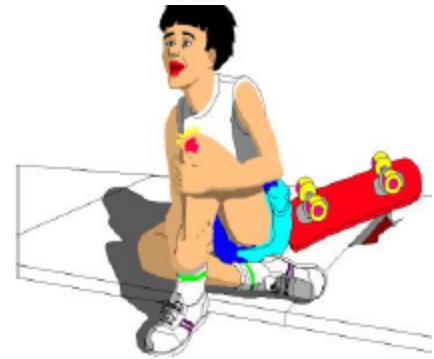
## Welfare

Looking after people's basic needs

## Environment

The surroundings in which an organisation operates including land, air and water, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelationships

# Accident Definitions



## **An Accident**

An unwanted, unforeseen, unplanned event which results in a loss of some kind.



## **Near Miss (Incident)**

An unwanted, unforeseen, unplanned event that had the potential to result in a loss

## **Dangerous Occurrence (High Potential Near Miss)**

A near miss with serious injury potential

# Ill-health Definitions

Work related ill health is:

"Any illness, disability or other physical problem which affects a person and is caused by their working conditions"

Work related ill health may be temporary or permanent

## Acute

Short term exposure with immediate effect, usually reversible

## Chronic

Repeated or long term exposure, often irreversible





# Hazard

Something with the potential to cause harm

Physical

Chemical

Biological

Ergonomic

Psychological



# Risk

The likelihood that harm will occur and  
the severity of the harm



The extent of risks  
cover the  
population  
affected and the  
**consequences** for  
them

# Reasons for Good Health & Safety Practice

## Humanitarian/Moral

Ethical and responsible behaviour



## Legal

Criminal and civil  
liability



## Cost



The costs of injuries and ill-health

# Costs of Accidents at Work

## Iceberg Model of Accident Costs:



... Visible Costs  
Liability insurance

Invisible Costs

# Hidden Costs of Accidents

**Accident investigation**

**Payments to injured person**

**Payments non productive time**

**Replacement labour**

**Training**

**Business interruption**

**Loss of reputation**

**Damage repair**

**Replacement plant**

**Compensation**

**Legal fees**

**Insurance**

# Benefits of Good Health and Safety Practice

- 1) Increased levels of compliance
- 2) Improved production
- 3) Improved staff morale
- 4) Improved company reputation
- 5) Reduced accidents
- 6) Reduced ill health
- 7) Reduced damage to equipment
- 8) Reduced staff complaints
- 9) Reduced staff turnover
- 10) Reduced insurance premiums
- 11) Reduced fines and compensation claims

# Health and Safety Law

**Law**

A rule of human  
conduct imposed  
upon and enforced



# EVERY EMPLOYER MUST ENSURE.....

- THE HEALTH, SAFETY & WELFARE AT  
WORK OF ALL HIS EMPLOYEES





# Sources of Information

## External

- Government organisations e.g. Enforcing Authorities
- National safety organisations / Professional Institutions
- Various Standards Organisation such as ISO and British Standards Institute (BSI)
- Suppliers and manufacturers
- Consultants and specialists
- Insurance Companies and workers unions

## Internal

- Risk assessments
- Inspection reports
- Accident/incident records
- Medical reports
- Safety representatives
- Safety committee reports
- Company safety policy
- Maintenance reports

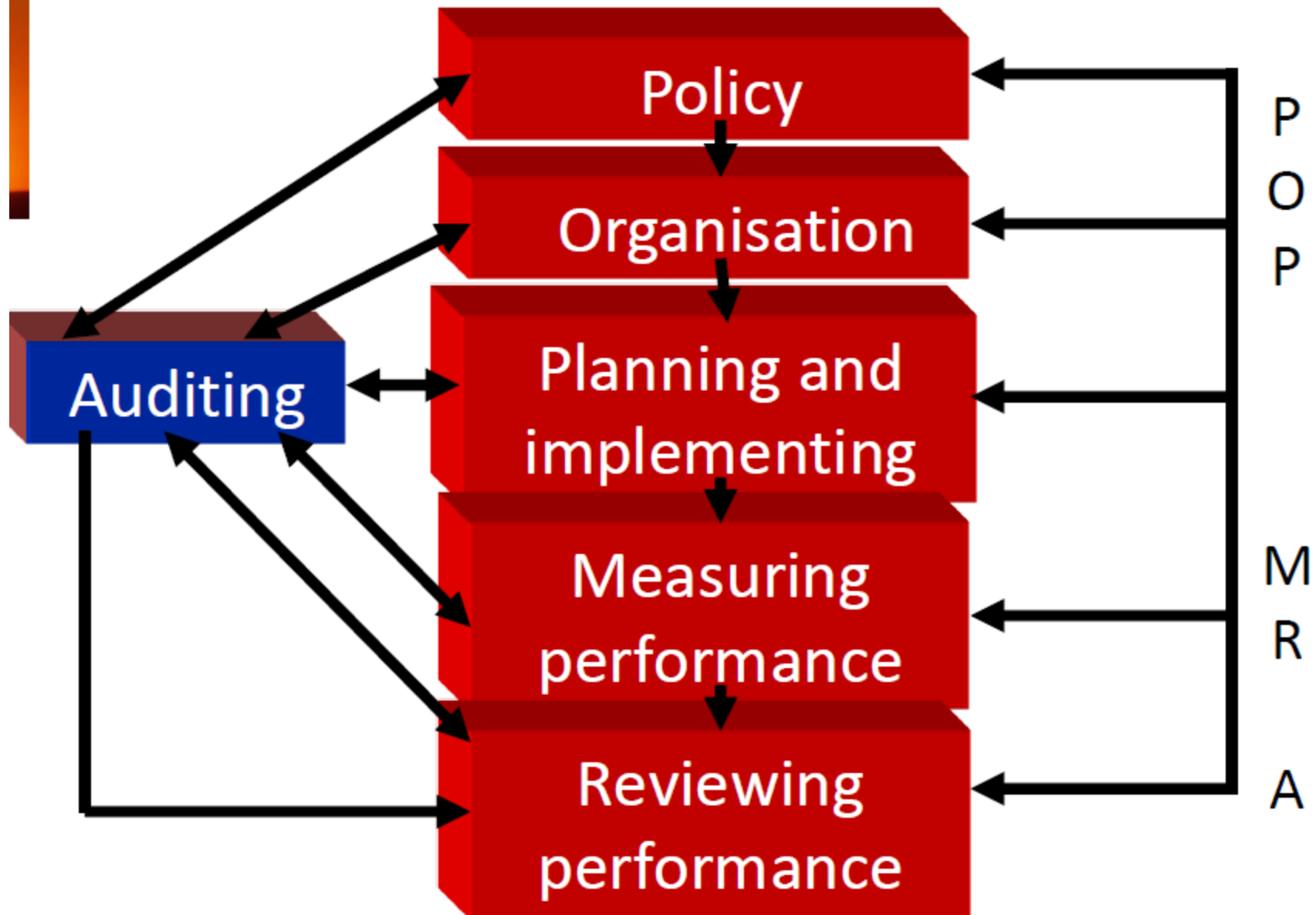
# Safety Management Systems

**HSEG 65, 2003:** 'Successful Health and Safety Management Systems'. (HSE)

**ILO-OSH, 2001:** Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems. (ILO)

**OHSAS 18001, 2007:** Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems (BSI)

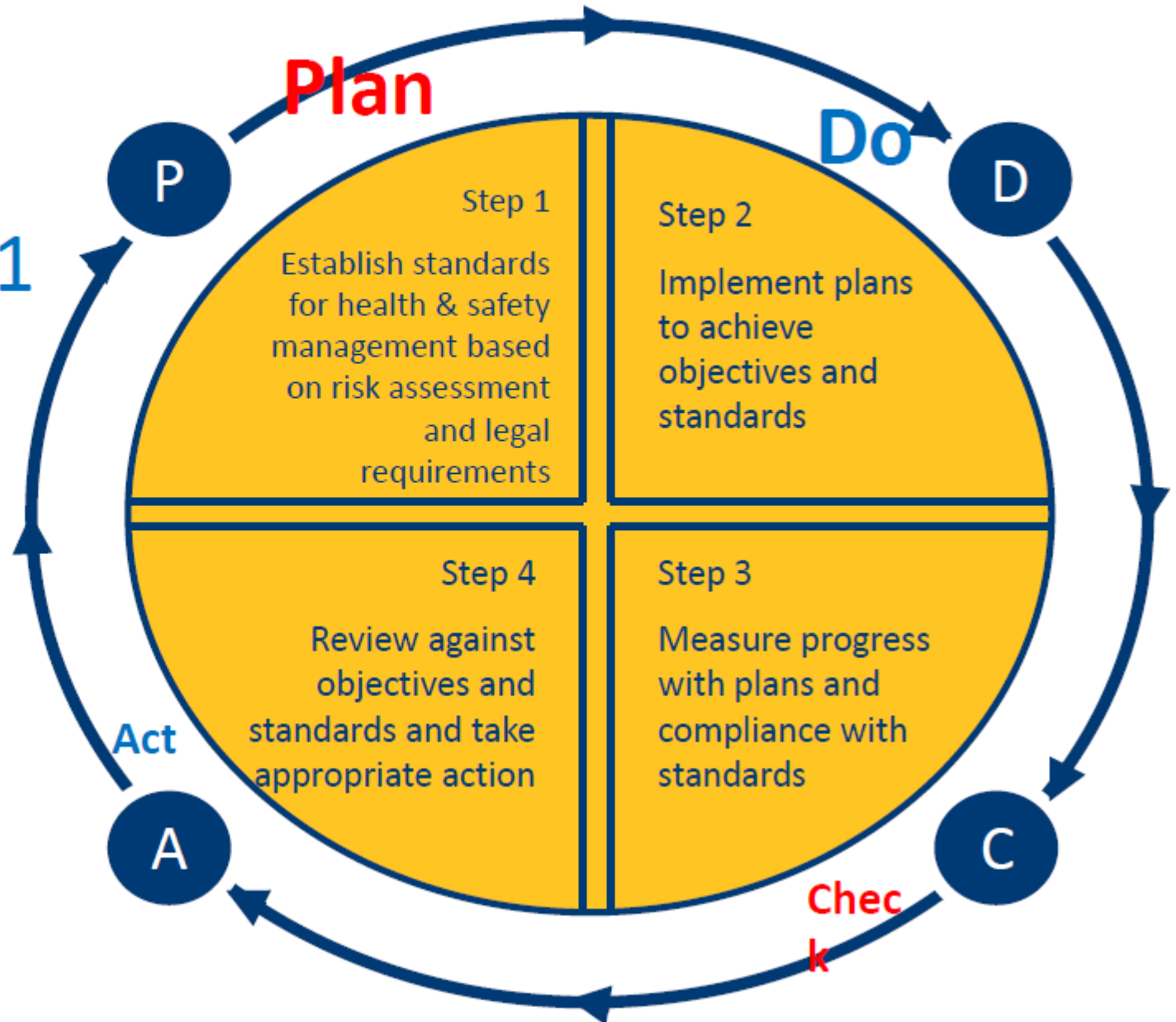
# HSG65 Safety Management Systems



# Safety Management Systems

ISO 9001  
ISO 14001

**Plan**  
**Do**  
**Check**  
**Act**



# Purpose of Safety Policy

- 1. Management Commitment to Safety**
- 2. Organisation and Arrangements for controlling work related hazards**
- 3. Protect people from injury and ill-health**
- 4. Comply with legal requirements**
- 5. Manage health and safety on a cost effective basis**

# Safety Policy

## 1) General Statement

Declaration of intent

What

## 2) The Organisation

Responsibilities

Who

## 3) Arrangements

Procedures

How

# Communicating the Policy

Employers must bring the policy to Employees attention. This can be done by:

- Displaying it on notice boards
- Introducing it on induction and training session
- Considering it on team briefings and tool box talks
- Using newsletters
- Inserts in wage slips
- Posters
- Build into safe systems and codes of practice
- Managers to discuss with workforce

# Objectives and Targets

**Objectives:** General goals

**Targets:** Specific performance requirements

## Targets in Health and Safety

- Reduce/Zero Accidents
- Zero Prosecutions
- Reduced sickness absence
- Reduction in compensation claims
- Improve reporting of minor accidents
- Improve reporting of near misses
- Increase numbers trained in health and safety
- Improve audit scores