



# Corporate governance

## Why corporate governance in safety and health matters

### Fact sheet

Businesses increasingly recognise that they are more likely to be successful and sustainable if they make their workplaces healthier and safer. To achieve this, they must have good governance for their occupational safety and health management systems.

IOSH Corporate governance explores how organisations can integrate occupational safety and health into their existing corporate governance arrangements. This is timely and necessary, as organisations start to bring in ISO 45001 – the international standard on occupational safety and health management systems.

### Who is IOSH Corporate governance for?

This is an executive development masterclass, designed for members of company boards and other governing bodies in any sector. It is also relevant for company secretaries and non-executive directors. Senior decision-makers and business leaders will learn about their health and safety. They will understand how effective governance can give assurance that their organisation is taking the right steps to oversee its health and safety practice.

### How is Corporate governance run?

The masterclass consists of a single workshop (3 hours, 30 minutes). An experienced IOSH-approved facilitator provides advice and guidance to your Board members as a collective, supported by a set of learning materials.

To prepare for the workshop the IOSH facilitator will liaise with a named contact in your organisation to:

- **gain familiarity with your business, to tailor-make a session that is right for you**
- **establish a close working relationship**
- **send each participant a questionnaire by email, for completion and return before the workshop.**

### IOSH Corporate governance covers

#### The principles of good governance and their relevance

Participants discuss what good governance is and consider the strategic implications of key principles and relevant international standards. They explore where corporate governance can succeed and break down, using a case study and the key learning tool – the good governance map.

#### Applying the principles to safety and health

Participants discuss which elements of governance they should apply to OSH and look at trends in practice. They then review their own strengths and weaknesses. They agree key actions as a group, referring to the good governance map.

### Positive results for participants

Participants will be able to improve their organisation's safety and health performance by:

- **arming their Board with the right questions to ask of safety and health reports presented to them**
- **providing assurance that the existing corporate governance arrangements meet OSH obligations – or are modified if not**
- **using corporate governance principles to improve corporate OSH governance through an integrated approach**
- **highlighting success factors in corporate OSH governance for better planning**
- **using their awareness of ISO 45001 and international standards on sustainability that are relevant to corporate OSH governance**
- **understanding how to evaluate strategic strengths and weaknesses in corporate OSH governance.**

### Positive results for business

Corporate governance positions organisations favourably by:

- **taking a long-term view of business and corporate social responsibility, increasing attractiveness to investors**
- **enhancing their reputation at a time of increased visibility of corporate conduct**
- **promoting good OSH standards across their supply chain**
- **preparing for non-financial reporting**
- **embedding the ISO 45001 standard, which increases senior leaders' accountability to manage OSH risks effectively**
- **moving towards the concept of a human-centred organisation.**

### Need help or want to know more?

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