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# Health and Safety, Environment and Quality Audits: A risk-based approach

Stephen Asbury

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## HEALTH AND SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT AND QUALITY AUDITS STEPHEN ASBURY

SECOND EDITION

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**Stephen Asbury : Health and Safety, Environment and Quality Audits: A risk-based approach** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Health and Safety, Environment and Quality Audits: A risk-based approach:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended reading for a Masters' Course I am undertaking By Philip Neal Recommended reading for a Masters' Course I am undertaking. Although the author recommends that this

is a useful "read" for both novices and those experienced in Audits, I was familiar with most of the content so I would recommend it for novices only. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great Purchase for auditing research

By Marilyn Adams A very good resource book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. By far the best in the field

By Andrew Rankine This is the second edition of a very successful book which first appeared in 2006. I said then that it was a most welcome addition to the library of any manager active in this field and ought to be the standard work in HSEQ auditing; this second edition only confirms me in this opinion. A thriving and constantly improving HSEQ culture depends on those in control questioning its condition, measuring its successes and failures and defining routes towards development. Much in the way that a financial audit determines the monetary health of a management system, HSEQ audits test these elements of performance. Some audit systems are one-size-fits-all prescriptions, which, although successful in many applications, cannot be said to succeed in all, simply because management structures vary so much. Indeed, earlier audit systems tended to give a false sense of security precisely because there was a fundamental mismatch between the management system under scrutiny and the audit system chosen. Hence Stephen Asburys approach to letting the management structure determine the what and how of auditing, and that is its major strength. Risk is defined herein as the scale of any type of impact on an organisations objectives, i.e. very widely. The purpose of this book is therefore to instruct the reader in how to focus on especial classes of risk, how best to interrogate the management system responsible for that aspect, and what to make of the outcome(s). The book comprises 10 main chapters plus 5 appendices. The novice auditor and senior general manager or director would be well advised to simply start at the beginning and wade in, for there is much to be gained from Asburys understanding of the current business environment and how the structure and control functions of an organisation operate. If youre familiar with modern management studies, then you might skip the first two chapters, but there are plenty of inset boxes with nuggets of good sense and advice that you wont want to miss. The crux of the matter starts in the next section, where it is explained why, how and by whom and auditing culture comes about in an organisation. This leads into a discussion of the interactions between auditor and those individuals who control the aspects of management under scrutiny. This is important if the audit process is to elicit the best and most accurate data on which future strategy can be confidently based. The Audit Adventure is the authors term for the thought processes around the dynamics used by auditors. This steers auditors through the major steps of the audit. Since an audit is a project like any other, it comprises a series of inter-related activities with a timescale, budget and resource allocation, plus clearly understood objectives. The remainder of the main sections of the book detail the principles and practices of this audit adventure. If you have been appointed as lead auditor, chapters 6-10 will lead you by the hand, telling you how to approach the tasks involved, how to get the best from your team, and to prepare and execute the best programme you can. All the important aspects of this vital process are dealt with expertly, and with good humour. Good preparation is, naturally, vital for a potentially complex project such as an audit. The audit team and especially the lead auditor must understand what is expected of them, the audit processes they will use and how the deliverables agreed will be uncovered. As Asbury says, the key to a successful audit is a thoroughly prepared audit team. Once the groundwork has been laid, the audit team will, hopefully, have unearthed a representative sample of significant risks for inclusion in the audit work plan. The actual conduct of the audit is, quite properly, the major section of this book and the author explains in some detail the variables inherent in these processes, how difficulties can be minimised and focus retained. Its all most helpful, with case studies, tips and pithy asides to guide the reader towards a deeper understanding. Of greatest use to the auditee will be the formal report and perhaps a presentation giving the conclusions of the audit. Where immediate risks or major non-conformancies have been uncovered, the lead auditor needs to be prepared to help in arriving at workable solutions. This is all part and parcel of the audit process. All these aspects are covered in enough detail to let the prospective lead auditor understand what is required, and conversely what a director of an auditee company can and should expect. The graphic design is superb with inset case studies to illustrate important points and tips garnered from the authors personal experience. Special mention must be made of Paul Richardsons cartoons. Auditing may not be the sexiest topic for humour, but these really do work well and dont detract from the seriousness of the subject. There is so much to enjoy and admire in this book. The introductory chapters are as good a summary of the nature of business risk as one can have without straying into magnum opus territory for management studies undergraduates. That this is achieved without recourse to management speak is quite remarkable. The writing style throughout is accessible and the layout leads the eye to the salient matters of each topic. There are, in addition to the main text, five main appendices plus lots of extras, not the least of which is the useful website supported by the publisher at: [...] There is also a good index, which makes life a lot easier. Auditing how-to guides tend not to be the most thrilling reads. One reads them because one wants to understand the process or to pass an exam. This one, however, actively draws the reader into an understanding of how important these activities are to the health of an organisation so that one appreciates that without such processes, success or failure would be pretty much left to chance. In todays business environment, no senior manager should be content with that. This book will tell you how to find out what could go wrong and how to address such challenges. This second edition remains the go to handbook for those who aspire to drive a prosperous and thriving business and I highly recommend it.

This book provides a step-by-step guide to technical and operational integrity audits which has become invaluable for senior management and auditors alike. This book: Shows practitioners and students how to carry out internal audits to the key international health and safety, environment and quality standards Contains over 20 new case studies, 20 additional A-Factors, and superb new illustrations Includes checklists, forms and practical tips to make learning easier. With the addition of colour, Health and Safety Environment and Quality Audits delivers a powerful and proven approach to auditing business-critical risk areas. It covers each of the aspects that need to be taken into account for a successful risk-based audit to international or company standards and is an important resource for auditors and lead auditors, managers, HSEQ professionals, and others with a critical interest in governance, assurance and organizational improvement. The companion website at [www.routledge.com/cw/asbury](http://www.routledge.com/cw/asbury) contains relevant articles, example risk management frameworks, and a video by the author explaining the key aspects of the book.

About the Author Stephen Asbury is the author of five books for Routledge on safety and risk management, and an HSE consultant and instructor with over 30 years of experience. Awarded the IOSH President's Distinguished Service Award in 2010, Stephen is the HSE Technical Discipline Manager for PetroSkills, and Course Director for their safety and HSE management training programs. He is a Chartered Safety and Health Practitioner (CFIOSH), a Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv), and a Professional Member Emeritus of the American Society of Safety Engineers. Stephen's risk management experience was gained working in organizations, in consultancy, and in the London insurance market in 60 countries on six continents. He was the longest-serving member of the IOSH Council of Management from 1998-2013. In addition to his books, Stephen is the author of ~40 technical papers and articles. He was awarded an MBA with Distinction (Leicester, 1995), and presently completing his PhD (London, 2016). His first qualification was in law.