VelocityEHS®

# Achieving ISO 45001 Certification with Improved Permit Management

Boston Scientific
Advancing science for life™

## Boston Scientific—A History of Innovation

A world leader in medical device manufacturing, Boston Scientific has a manufacturing facility in Cork, Ireland, where 1,600 people are employed. Boston Scientific Cork manufactures medical devices used in treatments and procedures such as cardiac rhythm management, endoscopy, interventional cardiology therapy, and many more. Established in 1997, this site produces 17 million lifesaving or life-enhancing devices every year.

## Dedication to Safety During Rapid Growth

Boston Scientific Cork has seen significant growth in its range of technologies over the last several years, resulting in infrastructure upgrades and several new projects. This means there are various contractors coming and going who need to be vetted and permitted for the work they are hired to do. In the past, the facilities department managed all the permits, but with the rapid growth, it has shifted to the project owners.

Boston Scientific Cork is committed to having the highest environmental, health, and safety (EHS) standards for both its employees and all contractors and visitors on its site. With the increasing numbers of projects, the manual process for managing contractors and permits was no longer viable. The EHS team knew they needed to streamline their permit and contractor management process for 100% visibility.

As Toni O'Sullivan, Senior EHS Manager, Boston Scientific Cork, said, "The manual process was no longer giving us the documentation control or visibility for an audit trail we needed. Some of these documents were handwritten, which made them hard to read and caused documentation issues. We needed to get a system in place with better visibility for all parties involved, helping to establish a clear audit trail to aid in our journey to achieving an ISO 45001 certification."

## Setting an EHS Goal to Achieve ISO 45001 Certification

ISO 45001 certification is an international certification for an occupational health and safety management system developed by experts from over 70 countries. Certification for this standard is not required, but organizations that obtain this certification not only demonstrate their commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace, but they benefit from reduced workplace incidents, better stakeholder engagement, increased productivity, enhanced employee morale, and much more.

Part of the process of obtaining the ISO 45001 certification is having and showing controls are in place for contractor and visitor activities—which include permits, high-risk work controls, risk assessments, and method statements—while being able to track this through an audit process. Toni said, "We decided to go out and find a system that was easy to use, easy to administrate, and gave us full visibility with a click of a button, during an audit process or in an emergency event, of where certain workers were working at a particular time."

Toni further explains, "Our emergency management system is connected to our permit management system. We knew we needed a software program that would give us visibility of permits and the locations of contractors and visitors to better ensure their safety during an emergency event. We implemented VelocityEHS Control of Work to help us fill the gaps caused from the old manual system. The software has

given us the visibility needed to help ensure the safety of all those on site."

Kristian Steward, Senior Engineer at Boston Scientific Cork, added, "The software has been a game changer for us because we now have sight of all the permits in place throughout each facility." The Contractor Management and Permit to Work capabilities within the Velocity Control of Work Solution helped to provide the visibility needed to meet two standards within the process of certifying for ISO 45001:

1. Control of contractor activity;
2. Risk assessment identification for high-risk work.

## Accomplishments and Benefits

Boston Scientific Cork did achieve its goal obtaining ISO 45001 certification. Through the process, they were able to identify gaps that had developed from rapid growth, and they identified the right software management system that would fill these gaps.

In addition to now being ISO 45001 certified, Boston Scientific Cork has successfully onboarded every person on-site to the Velocity Control of Work system. Kristian explains, "Now, it's hard to quantify the importance of having everyone trained on the system, but the time it would have taken to train everyone on the old system to generate a permit and get it approved versus using the Velocity system is a vast difference."

In the first month that Velocity Control of Work was introduced, Boston Scientific Cork completed 50 permits, and nine months in, they have successfully raised, completed, and closed over 1,100 permits. Toni continues, "We have more activities being permitted with this system than ever before. The project owner can easily make sure the contractor they hired is permitted to do the work.

**"Having full visibility of contractor activities on-site has drastically improved our regulatory compliance requirements, giving us the opportunity to further ensure everyone's safety."**

**– Toni O'Sullivan, Senior EHS Manager**

The advice Toni and Kristian would give to those seeking a software solution to streamline their EHS processes is to make sure the system:

- can do both internal and external permits.
- allows internal employees to see what the contractors are doing and vice versa.
- can be used at multiple sites or adopted by sister sites.

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