

Principles of Process Safety Leadership for the offshore UKCS Oil & Gas Industry

Good process safety is at the heart of everything. As industry leaders, we acknowledge our role in ensuring continuous improvement in this area. In pursuit of this challenge, we have established the following principles of process safety management for our industry:

PRINCIPLES:



- **Clear and positive process safety leadership** is at the core of managing a major hazard business and is vital to ensure that risks are effectively managed;



- **Engagement of the workforce** is needed in the promotion and achievement of good process safety management;



- Process safety leadership requires senior leadership **team involvement**, understanding and competence;



- **Robust and regular auditing** of the safety management system and associated major accident hazard barriers, is essential to ensure that system weaknesses are identified and process safety risks are being effectively managed;



- Good process safety management requires constant **active engagement and vigilance**;



- **Publication** of process safety performance information provides important assurance about the management of risks by an organisation;



- Senior leadership team visibility and **promotion of process safety leadership** is essential to set a positive safety culture throughout the organisation;



- **Sharing good practice** across industry sectors in order to learn and implement lessons from relevant incidents occurring internally and externally to the organisation, is important to maintain the currency of corporate knowledge and competence.

We regard these principles as fundamental to the successful management of a major hazard industry. We will work with all stakeholders to establish them as foundations to effective management of risks via the following arrangements:

ORGANISATION AND RESOURCES:

1. Process safety accountabilities should be defined and championed at the senior leadership team level and all should be held accountable for process safety leadership and performance;
2. At least one senior leader should be fully conversant in process safety management in order to advise the leadership team of the status of process safety risk management within the organisation and of the process safety implications of their decisions;
3. Appropriate resources should be made available to ensure a high standard of process safety management throughout the organisation and staff with process safety management responsibilities should have or develop an appropriate level of competence;
4. Organisations should develop a programme for the promotion of process safety by active senior management engagement with the workforce, both direct and contract staff, to underline the importance of process safety leadership and to support the maintenance of a positive process safety culture within the organisation;
5. Systems and arrangements should be in place to ensure the active involvement of the workforce in the design of process safety controls and in the review of process safety performance;
6. Business risks relating to process safety should be assessed and reviewed using an appropriate business risk analysis methodology;
7. Leading and lagging process safety indicators should be set for the organisation and reviewed to ensure they remain appropriate for the needs of the business. Information on process safety performance should be routinely reviewed by the senior leadership team and relevant information made available to OGUK for inclusion in their H&S annual report;
8. Companies should actively engage with others within their sector and elsewhere to share good practice and information on process safety incidents that may benefit others. Companies should have mechanisms and arrangements in place to incorporate learning from others within their organisation;
9. Systems and arrangements should be in place to ensure the retention of corporate knowledge relating to process safety management. Such arrangements should include information on the basis of safety design concept of the plant and processes, plant and process changes, and any past incidents that impacted on process safety integrity and the improvements adopted to prevent a recurrence.

OUR COMMITMENT

Implementation of the above process safety leadership principles and arrangements may vary in both detail and time in different organisations. However, in recognition of the essential role these principles and arrangements play in the management and sustainability of our major hazard industry, we commit to working to establishing them as foundations of effective process safety management and the prevention of major accidents.

Signed:

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