

THE UK PSM COMPETENCE PROGRAMME BOARD

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



Introduction

The Process Safety Management Competence Programme was conceived in 2010 in support of industry's need to understand and manage major incident risks and overseen since by a Programme Board.

This strategy is aimed at UK businesses that manage hazards with the potential for major or catastrophic incidents that could cause widespread harm to workers, to the public or to the environment.

Our aim is to continue to provide a framework of competence standards and training materials to those businesses. This will allow them to apply consistent approaches and to deliver the organisational competence to manage risks from those hazards, not only contributing to compliance with regulation, but also bringing business benefits from loss reduction.

Organisational competence in process safety management encompasses three related actions:

1. Continuously improving people's knowledge and experience;
2. Ensuring that appropriate information is available to people who need it; and
3. Consistently applying what has been learned.

Organisations with such hazards that adopt the PSM standards should be able to demonstrate improvements in their process safety performance resulting from a greater awareness of, and employee contributions to, process safety, and the establishment of a stronger process safety culture. This reflects the Health and Safety Executive's current strategy.

The Board's Strategic Priorities

The board's key priority is to promote process safety in UK process industries by maintaining and publicising a range of PSM training standards and courses and encouraging their uptake:

- By companies operating both COMAH and non-COMAH sites operating in the process industries;
- For initial staff training, subsequent training of new staff, and refresher training.

We will maintain training standards for training aimed at senior executives, managers and engineers, and operators and technicians as the benchmark for process safety awareness training for organisations in our focus.

Target sectors

We will identify potential candidate companies via:

- Relevant trade associations, including trade association members of the Board;
- Relevant professional bodies, including professional body members of the Board;

- HSE, a member of the Board;
- Environment Agency, a member of the Board, SEPA, NRW and Deara; and
- Other Board members, including Cogent Skills.

We will facilitate the publicising of the standards and courses by Board members via flyers and other materials, through their normal communication channels, at trade shows and at other events.

Engagement

We will seek to maintain a wide membership of the board and to:

- Include people that work directly within major accident hazard businesses;
- Engage trade associations whose members process or handle hazardous substances or manage major accident hazards;
- Connect with professional engineering institutions to encourage a wider understanding amongst professional engineers and technicians about the importance of effective process safety management;

We will support uptake of the training standards and courses via flyers and other materials published to board members through their normal communication channels, at trade shows and at other events.

Data analysis and review

We will review performance data to inform the setting of appropriate targets, and to prioritise the application of resources to achieve a proportionate approach to COMAH and non-COMAH engagement covering all industry sectors that have organisations managing hazards with the potential for major incidents;

We will routinely check that appropriate arrangements are in place for the review and keeping up to date of the training standards, course materials and the competence of trainers through an Expert Panel

PSM Competence Programme Board and Expert Panel Membership

The success of the PSM Competence Programme will continue to be dependent on the support of stakeholders and industry representatives in both the PSM Competence Programme Board and its Expert Panel.

To contribute to the work of the PSM Competence Programme please contact:

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