Abstract of Tutorial and Discussion to be led by Trevor Kletz

SOME PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED

The case histories discussed will illustrate the following:

**The need for a system to control changes in organisation.** The need to control changes to plants and processes is now widely accepted. Incidents, some serious, have shown the need for a similar system to control changes in organisation. In the UK this is now a requirement in high hazard industries.

**We can learn from the experience of other industries** without waiting for similar accidents to occur in our own company or industry. For example, civil engineering projects have suffered because inspection was inadequate and in the UK many railway accidents have occurred because drivers (engineers) have passed stop signals. Drivers were blamed and this diverted attention away from considering what could be done by better engineering.

**Eliminating a hazard or improving the design is usually more effective than improving procedures** (though not always possible). Nevertheless, in some companies the default action after an accident is to improve procedures rather than look for engineering solutions, even when cheap and simple ones are possible.

207 words