Organizing Knowledge for Improved Process Safety

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Abstract

Since lack of appropriate knowledge, be it technical, operational, or safety related, is one of the major causes of human error, it behooves us to maintain an organized repository of knowledge that can be easily maintained, updated and disseminated. Existing tools such as document management systems (DMS) allow us to create and share such a repository. By providing a suitable structure to the knowledge (taxonomy), it can be dynamically organized in a working environment and properly maintained. In this paper we will discuss the necessary features of a DMS for providing for information validation (we want our knowledge to be correct), security (to prevent information corruption), and updatability (to have the latest information), and for having the ability to be easily shared. A taxonomy that can be applied to an operating petrochemical plant that will allow achieving the objectives of collecting, reviewing, and maintaining the correct information will be shown.