Utilizing Field-based Risk Registers to Improve Process Safety Culture and Competence

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Abstract

With increased regulatory scrutiny regarding the importance of a strong process safety culture, many companies are asking how to tackle such a daunting task. In many organizations, personal safety is stressed, management leads by example, and programs are in place to monitor and improve incidents such as slips, trips, and falls; however, process safety is often not an area of focus or is not fully understood.

Two critical building blocks in developing a good company-wide process safety culture are 1) ownership of risks, and 2) the ability to speak one common risk language. Implementation of local risk registers is an effective way to develop both of these concurrently.

This paper outlines how the use of field-based risk registers provides organizations of any size an opportunity to introduce the concepts of hazard identification, risk analysis, and risk control to personnel who otherwise might not participate in these types of activities. It provides insight into how, if implemented correctly, these risk registers can provide a sense of ownership in the field regarding process safety, while still providing a method for improving personal safety and environmental protection.