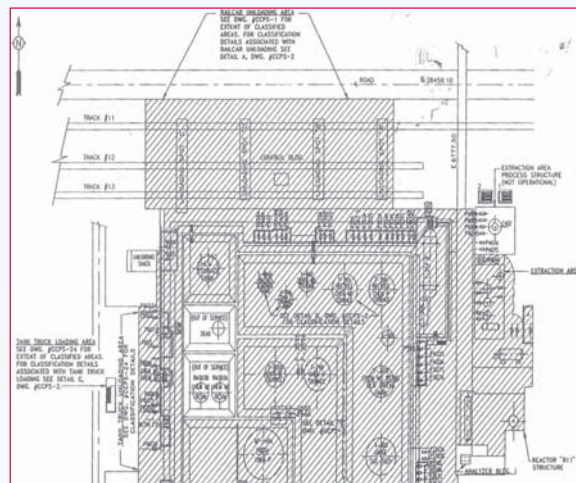


Has Anybody Seen Our Process Safety Information (PSI)?

What is Process Safety Information (PSI)? It is the information about the process chemistry, equipment and technology of your plant. It is collected from many places inside and outside your company: research and development, engineering, operations, and also from suppliers of raw materials, process technology, and equipment. As an operator or maintenance person, your first exposure to PSI may have been during a Process Hazard Analysis (PHA) — the stack of drawings, manuals, documents, and books that provided information to the PHA team.

PSI is also frequently used in Management of Change (MOC) reviews. It is important to understand the existing system so you can evaluate the consequences of proposed changes. For example, a new valve must meet the specifications for the pipe where it is installed. That means the valve, gaskets, bolts, and other components all need to be correct. How do you know? Verify them according to the piping specifications in the PSI from the plant engineering design.

Some other important examples of PSI include piping and instrumentation drawings, hazardous area classification drawings, and the reports from PHAs, MOC reviews, incident investigations, personal protective equipment requirements, operating and maintenance procedures, and others.



▲ A hazardous area classification drawing.

PHAD No: E-250
Revision: D
Meeting Date: 9/5/00
Team: Mr. Smart, Mr. Associate, Ms. Piper, Mr. Stedman, Mr. Volt (all from the ABC Anywhere Plant)

Item Number	Description	Cause ^a	Consequences	safeguards	Actions
L8 LINE — AIR SUPPLY LINE TO INCINERATOR (INTENTION: SUPPLY 15,000 SCFM OF AIR TO INCINERATOR AT AMBIENT TEMPERATURE AND 3 IN. WC)					
L1	No flow	1 — Air fan #1 fails off 2 — FCV-1 fails closed 3 — FT-1 fails — high signal	A — Incinerator shuts down. Possible release out the scrubber stack. Potential incinerator explosion if shutdown interlocks fail	1 — Redundant fan on standby with autostart A — Low-low air pressure (PSLL-1) shutdown interlock	1 2

▲ Part of the documentation of a PHA study.

What Can You Do?

PSI is essential to safe plant operation and maintenance, but it is valuable only if it is correct, up-to-date, and used. And, you must know where to find it. Here are some examples of things you can do to ensure that the PSI for your plant is correct and useable:

- If asked to go into the plant and update piping drawings, take that job seriously. A valve not shown on the drawing may be the difference in preventing a spill — you can't close it if you don't know it is there.
- If you find that an operation is normally done differently from the written operating procedure, tell your supervisor, so that either the procedure is modified or the operation is performed as required by existing procedures.
- If you find an error on a drawing, tell your supervisor or plant engineer so it can be corrected.
- If you are trying to use a drawing and there are too many corrections, tell your supervisor or an engineer that the corrections make the drawing confusing, and a new drawing is needed.
- Remember that control system documentation is part of the PSI and must be updated when changes are made.

Where is your Process Safety Information?

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