Process Safety Excellence in a World of Deviations Management

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Monday, April 11th | 1:30pm – 3:00pm

Workshop Brief: Operators need a clear understanding of operational risk if they are to make better, safer operating decisions. But how can they identify and mitigate operational risk if many of the drivers, especially those arising from process safety management (PSM), are disconnected from the impact of daily operations?

Workshop Description: Operators need to manage a complex environment of operating activities, plant conditions, and working practices. All interact with each other as well as with process safety barriers, deliberately and inadvertently changing the potential for a major hazard event.

With this complex range of interactions in mind, every operational decision has an element of risk. By taking a step back to look at how these interactions and process safety are managed across the planning-to-execution work management processes, there is big opportunity to not only reduce risk but improve the productivity of maintenance and operations.

Process safety deviations and non-conformances are often assessed and managed in different ways, by different functions. Furthermore, operational risk data is often stored and managed in multiple places. As a result, many key decisions can be made unaware of the major accident hazards arising from deviations as well as the interaction between deviations and daily operations. The absence of a consistent way to understand and mitigate the combined impact of risks to frontline operations adversely affects operational performance as well the overall risk profile. Operators need to employ a common means of balancing risk against productivity, so everyone across the business can make better operating decisions.

Process Safety Management (PSM) has the greatest potential to affect major accident risk. As such, it's essential to capture the residual risk arising from each deviation in a transparent and common way if we are to understand the overall cumulative risk arising from those deviations. By placing PSM risk in the context of daily operations, PSM can become a powerful driver of operational performance. By capturing all activities, performance deviations, and non-conformances in terms of the risk they carry to the business, operators can build a holistic picture of operational risk. This approach makes the impact of PSM deviations on safety and operational performance clear for all to see, and it enables plant operators to improve their planning, maintenance prioritization, and execution.

This dynamic workshop and roundtable session will discuss and demonstrate practices for integrating operational risk management and operational performance. By moving to a unified approach to operational risk management, operators can connect the impact of their process safety management performance to daily operations and get more of the right activity done to improve the safety, efficiency and effectiveness of their operations.