Lecture W3

Planning within an Occuational Health & Safety Management Standard

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A brief insight into how Ulster Industrial Explosives addresses one clause of the Standard - the Planning ***Element.***

INTRODUCTION

An earlier Paper presented provided an insight into how the Occupational Health & Safety Assessment 18001 Standard is structured. This presentation will focus solely on one clause within the **Planning** element of the Standard. That clause is "*Hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control".*

Hazard identification, risk assessment and risk control

The Standard is definitive in its requirements. Words such as "The organisation ***shall***" are common throughout. The Standard recognises that Safety is not optional, it is essential. Therefore, the potential for ambiguity to arise is curtailed.

Briefly, we shall describe how we address each of the requirements of this element.

(i) The organisation shall establish and maintain procedures for the ongoing identification of hazards, the assessment of risks, and the implementation of necessary control measures. These shall include;

- *Routine & non-routine activities*
- *Activities of all personnel having access to the workplace (including subcontractors and visitors)*
- *facilities at the workplace, whether provided by the organisation or others*

(i) ROUTINE & NON-ROUTINE ACTIVITIES.

Under the UK's interpretation of the Seveso II Directive – Control of Major Accidents Hazards Regulations (COMAH), a Major Accident Prevention Policy (MAPP) has been drafted to address the routine activities of our explosives manufacturing operations. The Major Accident Prevention Policy describes the measures in place to prevent a major accident within the licensed premises of Ulster Industrial Explosives.

(ii) ACTIVITIES OF ALL PERSONNEL HAVING ACCESS TO THE WORKPLACE (INCLUDING SUBCONTRACTORS AND VISITORS)

Visitors

A procedure exists for visitors to the site. On entering the Ulster Industrial Explosives Factory, they are required to observe rules and safety precautions. They are instructed about alarms sounding, where muster areas are, and when and where they must wear

the appropriate PPE. They are cautioned about the prohibition of matches, lighters and other means of procuring a light.

Contractors

Contractors are normally selected from an Ulster Industrial Explosives. "Approved Contractors List". Companies included on this list have obtained copies of the Health & Safety Policy and the procedure outlining working on the site. The Contractors have agreed in writing to comply with the restrictions placed upon them. Non routine contractors on arrival to the site, must obtain an authorised "Control of Contractors" form which specifies what work is to be carried out, the restrictions placed upon them and the receipt of a ***permit to work*** whenever necessary. The Control form also describes the action to be taken by a Contractor in the event of an emergency.

(III) FACILITIES AT THE WORKPLACE, WHETHER PROVIDED BY THE ORGANISATION OR OTHERS

Inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire alarm systems

A registered contractor subjects alarms to a yearly inspection.

Design of fixed fire fighting equipment

Fixed fire fighting equipment has been designed and installed to the relevant standards.

Selection of portable fire fighting equipment

Fire extinguishers at the Factory have been selected and installed appropriate to the risk being covered. All such equipment is subjected to regular inspection as defined by a procedure.

*(ii) The organisation shall ensure that the results of these assessments and the effects of these controls are considered when setting its OH&S objectives. The organisation shall docum*ent and keep this information up to date.

In some cases, local professional organisations are contracted to carryout specific assessments. This gives the added benefit of independence from established norms and provides the employees and the authorities with a fair and impartial evaluation of the workplace. At Ulster Industrial Explosives, we value the skills and knowledge of independent industry related consultants. We are more than willing to avail of their expertise and subsequent advice. The use of outside practitioners is encouraged because we may "*always look at but not see*" potential problems.

Some of the areas that we have used external consultants are; noise assessment, ergonomics assessment and dust assessments.

(iii) The organisation's methodology for hazard identification and risk assessment shall;

- *be defined with respect to its scope, nature and timing to ensure it is proactive rather than reactive;*
- *provide for the classification of risks and identification of those that are to be eliminated or controlled by measures defined in 4.3.3 (Objectives) and 4.3.4 (OH&S Management Programmes);*
- *be consistent with operating experience and the capabilities of risk control measures employed;*

- *provide input into the determination of facility requirements, identification of training need and/or development of operational controls;*
- *provide for the monitoring of required actions to ensure both effectiveness and timeliness of their implementation.*

The methods employed by Ulster Industrial Explosives for identifying hazards, assessing the risks and considering implementing suitable and adequate control measures focuses on the hazards present both during the normal operation of our business and the non-routine activities.

The risk assessments include all personnel having access to our work places or those who may be affected by our activities undertaken outside of our workplace, such as our mobile pump truck.

The opinions and judgements derived from these written assessments, and subsequent reviews, are used to improve the overall safety performance and enhance the safety culture within the organisation. Issues arising may be used as a basis for a future objective and / or an occupational health & safety management programme. The findings may also be used within the training needs analysis.

The process of Risk Assessment has generally been considered under the following headings

a) Hazard identification

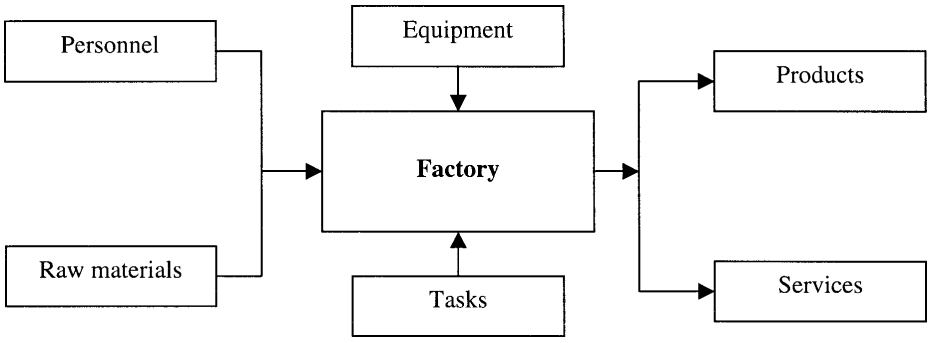
b) Consideration of applicable standards

c) Evaluation of risk

d) Consideration and implementation of measures to reduce and control the risks

e) Review or feedback process

Within the manufacturing environment, a common approach has been applied to identifying the hazards. The following diagram best describes this.



The significant hazards arising from each of the elements identified above are then considered along with the appropriate Regulations.

Personnel	Knowledge, training & competence	
	Personal Protective Equipment	*PPE. at Work Regs.*
	Emergency Procedures	*C.O.M.A.H. Regs.*
	Flammability of overalls	
	First Aid	*First Aid Regs*. *R.I.D.D.O.R.*
Raw Materials	Dangerous Goods	*C.O.S.H.H. Regulations*
Equipment	Lifting Equipment	
	Plant Design	
	Plant Modifications	
	Plant Maintenance	
	Portable Electrical Equipment	*Electricity at Work Regs*
	Pressure Systems	*Press. Systems Safety Regs.*
	Machinery Guarding	
	Static	
	Noise	*Noise at Work Regs*
	Radioactive Source	*Ionising Radiation Regs*.
	Fire fighting	
Tasks	Manual Handling	
	Ergonomics	
	Ladders	
	V.D.U.'s	
	Burning Waste Explosives	
	Vehicle Movements	*Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor)* *Carriage of Explosives by Road Regs* *Package of Exp for CarriageRegs* *Classification & Labelling of Exp Regs* *Driver Training Regs* *Explosives Substances (Haz Info)* *ACOP construction of exp. vehicles*
Products	Explosives Testing	
Services	Bulk Truck Design & Operation	
	Bulk Truck On-Site Risk Assessment	
	Carriage of Explosives accessories on Bulk Truck	

CONCLUSION

A huge amount of dedication and effort is required to appropriately address the planning element of the Standard. It is vital that those people who are employed within assessment areas are involved in the risk identification. Ownership of safety does not belong, nor is it in the gift of Top Management alone. It is vital that Top Management are observed to be obsessed with safety and that this obsession is permeated throughout the organisation.

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