



SAFETY IN EXPLOSIVES

NEWSLETTER N°12 June 2004

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Message from the Governing Committee

On February 1st 2004, the Governing Committee met in New Orleans during the 15th ISEE International Conference.

The main issue of this meeting was to agree and approve the broad outline of the XV **Safex Congress** which will be held from **25th - 29th May 2005** at the **Moevenpick Hotel** in Geneva, Switzerland.

This Newsletter may be considered as a 'first call' for the 2005 Congress and any of the scheduled events.

Please make a note of the dates in your diary now to :

- Send your Safety Engineers to the Training Programme to be held just before the Congress.
- Encourage your experts to contribute not only to the Congress itself but to the Technical Seminars with the aim of publishing Codes of Good Practice in the field of:
 - Pumping Emulsion Safety
 - Explosives decontamination and remediation

And of course :

- Bring your own contribution to two specific workshops and to two full days of lectures on:
 - Good explosives practices
 - SHE management
 - Incident review and Accident case studies

As always we feel that the gathering of many colleagues from all over the world facilitates the exchange of ideas and information and fosters friendship and understanding.

An enjoyable social programme for your partners has been prepared as well as a special 50th Anniversary Social Tour for the final day, Saturday 29th May .

The Governing Committee is looking forward to seeing you all in Geneva next May, and is hoping to break all previous attendance records for a SAFEX Congress.

The second SAFEX Training Event

At the last SAFEX Congress we provided training on “Incident Investigation” and this event was very well supported by the SAFEX membership. The training given was aimed at personnel who would lead or take part in an incident investigation and it focussed on an integrated approach to investigating an incident to ensure that the team considered all potentially important aspects.

The training did not deal with the more specialised technical aspects of “**explosion investigation**” i.e. it did not address the issues that often need to be considered when we look at an explosion scene in detail. The explosion scene can contain much valuable information that can help the investigators ascertain what happened to cause the initiation and what were the subsequent events leading to mass explosion or decomposition.

To help investigators understand and assess the need for such detailed investigational techniques, SAFEX will hold another training session. The training will be provided by 2 very experienced practitioners and will take place immediately before the [XV SAFEX Congress](#)

As the training will be intensive, only the first 30 trainees to sign up will be accepted. You could give invaluable opportunity to one of your young safety engineers by allowing him or her to attend this session, or expand the capabilities of your experienced personnel.

The Training session will start at 9am on **Tuesday 24th May 2005**. However there will be a dinner on Monday 23rd May to enable the participants to get to know each other and to share their safety experiences. The session will end on **Wednesday 25th** at 5pm and it is hoped that as many trainees as possible will then also attend the SAFEX Congress.

A Congress Innovation : Two Technical Seminars

During recent Congresses, attendees have been made aware of the importance of specific safety issues. It has now been decided to capture our current state of knowledge and experience in two specific areas:

- [Pumping Emulsion](#)
- [Explosives decontamination and remediation](#)

On **Wednesday 25th May** Piet Halliday (email: hallidayp@ael.co.za) and John French (email: johnfrench@exchem-explosives.co.uk) respectively will convene groups of experts to discuss these two topics and share related experiences.

The Technical Seminar on pump safety is designed to develop a generic, globally applicable pump safety

system and a set of standards to govern the design and operation of a pump and pumping operations.

The Technical Seminar on explosives decontamination and remediation will start with nitro-glycerine based explosives and gather the learning and good practices that would ensure safe remediation operations and facilitate future projects in contaminated areas.

The Secretary General will register applications from experts among the SAFEX Membership willing to share their knowledge on these subjects. Continued networking by the group after the Congress will be essential to maintain a high level of commitment, learning and continuity by up-dating methods and standards.

Plenary and Workshop Sessions

On **Thursday 26th May** **two themes** will be covered in a **Plenary Workshop Session**

1. SHE System (Facilitator: Frank Barker email: frank.barker@orica.com)

Just as a medical practitioner examines a patient against a norm of symptoms and indicators and then prescribes treatment, our business's SHE health needs to be examined against a norm and then treatment (corrective action) put in place to ensure consistent operations.

The intention of this SAFEX session is to

a) describe the key elements of the SHE “norm” or template that help to ensure safe and efficient explosives operations and

b) develop further in the Workshop some of the diagnostic tools that are used in the business to assess deviations from the norm.

The Workshop will give Members the opportunity to review some of the key diagnostic tools used in the business such as : periodic hazard studies, change management systems, risk assessment practices and different levels of audit probes - all of which can be used to make a diagnosis of their SHE health and prepare a treatment plan.

2. Good Explosives Practice (Facilitator :Andy Begg email: andy.begg@tiscali.co.uk)

The Plenary will cover the following topics leading into the Workshop that follows

- Defining the term GEP (Good Explosives Practice) with reference to 'Basis of Safety' concepts illustrated by examples of 'good' and 'not so good' practices
- Explaining the importance of GEP and its role and scope in explosives safety
- Presenting a detailed GEP for a common explosives activity

To maximize the value of the Plenaries and the Workshops, we are looking to the Members to provide papers (15-20 minutes) on key elements of their SHE management system and on specific aspects of GEP. The papers will be integrated into the initial concept of a SHE template, so that other members at the Congress can assess their particular operations and follow up with the Presenters or with SAFEX as appropriate.

Please give some thought to what you could contribute and do not hesitate to contact the Secretary General (email: safex.secretariat@wanadoo.fr) or the above facilitators regarding your proposed contribution and provide them as soon as possible with:

1. *Names of the presenter*
2. *Titles of papers/topics to be presented*
3. *Areas of SHE system management including those above that you are interested in and feel should be considered in the workshop.*
4. *Existing GEP in a specific operation, a particular piece of equipment or an activity you are willing to share with the Congress members, and areas of uncertainty on GEP you would discuss with your colleagues.*
5. *Relevant posters you may wish to display*

Incident Review and Accident Case Studies

On Friday 27th May, as usual, SAFEX members who have had accidents or near misses since the last SAFEX Congress will be asked to share their experiences with the Congress, and to detail what action was taken as a result of the accidents.

Safex was founded to ease the exchange of information about accidents and near-misses. SAFEX exists for the development of effective safety procedures and the prevention of accidents in the future. We depend on you to make our exchanges fruitful for a safe future in our Industry .

Other News from SAFEX INTERNATIONAL

Topical Papers

As previously announced the 1st Topical Paper has been distributed in hard copy and electronic form. 'Lessons from incidents involving the testing of explosives' by Andy Begg was published with the sponsorship of EXSA (Peru). We hope that you have widely distributed this paper in your company and outside with the goal of improving Safety in our industrial workplaces.

Whenever you feel a paper presented by one of your colleagues is relevant to Safety improvement, please inform SAFEX Secretariat so that we can ask for Governing Committee approval and find sponsorship to publish it as a SAFEX Topical Paper.

Expert Panel

The SAFEX Governing Committee has established a panel of experts and the Secretary General is currently completing an Expert Profile pro-forma for any of the experts already selected by the Committee . The aim of this expert panel is to connect a SAFEX member in need of help with an expert that best matches that need. You can ask the SAFEX Secretary General now to provide you with a short list of experts that may fit your needs . SAFEX International will issue shortly a specific note outlining this new service to its Members

A concluding word from Boet Coetzee, Chairman of SAFEX International

A 50th anniversary is a milestone in the life of any organisation. For SAFEX it reflects the long-term commitment of its members to making the explosives industry of which they are part safer, healthier and environmentally friendlier for all its stakeholders. We salute all those individuals who have sustained this tradition on behalf of member companies over the years and invite you to join us as we celebrate this achievement at our XV Congress in Geneva next year. Let us also use this opportunity as the current generation to renew our commitment to doing even better in future.

Now for a word specifically directed at the CEO's of our member companies. Your Governing Committee recognises that without your personal commitment and leadership our best efforts will be meaningless. That is why we would like to cater for you as well as the safety engineers attending the training, the technical experts participating in our new Technical Seminars and all the SAFEX contacts who will be contributing to the plenary sessions and to the rest of the Congress. We sincerely hope many of the CEO's of our member companies will attend the XV SAFEX Congress and the special Anniversary lunch that will be held for you on Thursday 26th May. We plan to raise some issues at lunch that should be of particular interest to you as a CEO. Please make every effort to join us.

In recognition of our Anniversary, the European Federation of Explosives Manufacturers has decided to hold its AGM in Geneva on Wednesday 25th May 2005. This will enable FEEM representatives to prolong their stay and join us at our XV Congress. SAFEX has had a long and fruitful association with FEEM and we look forward to acknowledging this at our Congress.

To make this 50th anniversary a special one, bring your partner with you. An enjoyable social programme has been prepared and will no doubt make this Congress an unforgettable one for all who will be attending!

Pre registration form

Members are reminded that they are allowed **two delegates per company** not including the presenters of papers or the training session and technical seminar attendees

Please help the organisers to ensure an efficiently run and enjoyable event by sending a pre-registration form to :

SAFEX SECRETARIAT for the attention of Sally PARRY: Fax 00 33 1 39 76 73 03 or preferably to safex.secretariat@wanadoo.fr .

COMPANY NAME.....

Mr.....

Accompanied by.....

Will attend the next 2005 SAFEX Congress :

Wednesday 24th May at 7pm : Registration , cocktail and dinner
Thursday 25th May and Friday 26th May : Plenary and Workshops
Saturday 28th May : Social Programme

Mr is prepared to give a presentation on the following subject :

A formal registration form for the XV Congress will be sent out in September 2004

Safex International is registered as an International non-profit making Association with ATAQ Ernst and Young, Aeschengraben 9, 4002 Basel. Swiss Secretariat : c/o Rohner AG Gempenstrasse 6, 4133 Pratteln, Switzerland.

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