

# Celebrating high hazard industry success

## Significant Milestone Reached - 20,000 Staff Trained in Process Safety Management

### Celebrating High Hazard Industry Success – BUT more sites still need to adopt the standards!

Responsible process safety training success has been achieved by over 300 UK and global high hazard companies, celebrating the fact that since 2010, 20,000 delegates have now adopted the Process Safety Management (PSM) industry framework training standards.

The standards, listed in this HSE COMAH guidance document - have been developed for industry by the UK Process Safety Management Competence Programme (PSM CP) Board, which includes representatives from the Health and Safety Executive, and are delivered exclusively by Cogent Skills.

The PSM standards are benchmarked to COMAH / SEVESO III compliance requirements and include detailed content supporting process safety competence and compliance - to help improve a business' operational integrity, safety and reduce the risk of a Major Accident Hazard to people, assets and the environment.

Since the start of the programme, training has been undertaken by 20,000 PSM delegates from over 40 major accident hazard industry sectors – including Chemicals, Nuclear, Energy, Utilities, Manufacturing, Upstream and Downstream Petroleum, Explosives, Distribution and Storage, across the following COMAH site classifications:

- 36% Upper Tier
- 15% Lower Tier
- 49% Non-COMAH

This significant milestone was reached in Summer 2022, when participants from Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE Plc) undertook a bespoke Process Safety Leadership course, delivered via online blended learning.

This means that since 2010, high hazard industry leaders have been investing in their staff training and process safety culture - to keep their sites safe and reduce the risk of a catastrophic incident to people, the environment or assets - which in turn will help them to keep their 'License to Operate'.

But there is still more to do. There are over 900 COMAH sites in UK and only 1/3rd of COMAH and non-COMAH high hazard sites have adopted the PSM Training Standards.

Richard Roff, Chair of UK Process Safety Management Competence Programme Board and Group Process Safety Director, Costain Group PLC, stated:

“This significant milestone demonstrates the importance that responsible senior leaders place on process safety management across their businesses. It should also send a clear message to those yet to engage in process safety management training, that they are missing out on something their peers or competitors have in hand.

The principles of Process Safety Management are applicable wherever there is a need to maintain operational safety and reduce environmental risk so it's great to see that non-COMAH organisations are taking their process safety seriously too.

It's essential that leaders of organisations with the potential for catastrophic incidents in their operations prioritise the adoption of process safety education: The PSM programme's standards have been developed specifically for them and their teams - to help keep their operations safe.”

The Process Safety Management training standards are delivered via a suite of 1-2 day Process Safety Management courses, including:

- **Process Safety Leadership for Senior Executives (PSL)** for Senior Executives and Board Members of major hazard facilities
- **Process Safety Management Foundations (PSMF)** for Managers, Supervisors, Safety Personnel, Senior Contract Employees and Junior Engineers
- **Process Safety Management for Operations (PSMO)** for Operators, Maintenance Technicians and Long-Term Contractors
- **PSMO - Train the Trainer** (License to Train PSMO)

Amanda Cockton, PSM CP Board member and Health and Safety Executive HM Inspector of Health and Safety | Chemicals, Explosives & Microbiological Hazards Division, stated:

“2021 major hazard leadership interventions highlighted the links between poor performance on site and a lack of competency in the management of major hazards at senior leadership level.

Boards should have at least one person who is accountable for process safety performance and who understands how the decisions made at board level can impact upon safety, both now and into the future.

Process Safety Leadership training is an effective way of ensuring that these boards have the right level of competency.

Any senior leader, who plays a significant role in the direction of a business, needs to understand not only what is happening on their sites and appreciate their risk profile, but they should also take accountability for their process safety management systems, workforce competency and major hazard safety on site.

This is particularly important now, as leaders make plans to review and update their sites in preparation for Net Zero.”

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