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Services

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Seveso II and COMAH compliance

A best-practice approach to major hazards management

BUSINESS CHALLENGE

High hazard industries are expected to prevent major accidents which involve dangerous substances. They are also expected to take measures which limit the consequences of such accidents for man and the environment. In many countries this expectation is backed by legislation which defines what must be done to demonstrate compliance.
Compliance with legislation leads to a license to operate, whereas non-compliance can lead to curtailments.
Demonstration of compliance can be a demanding activity. Preparation of Safety Reports can be complex involving many hundreds of hours of effort from company management, technical resources, and operating staff. Conflicting priorities and the need to meet submission deadlines means that Safety Report preparation requires careful project management.

SOLUTION

What is Safety Management for Seveso II compliance?
The European Community issued Directive 96/82/EC (known as Seveso II) in order to ensure that high levels of protection are used within high hazard industries, in a consistent and effective manner. Within UK, the Directive is implemented as the COMAH Regulations (COMAH = Control of Major Accident Hazards).
The government agencies responsible for Seveso / COMAH assessments include those active in industrial safety as well as in environmental protection, in the latter case because a serious accident can cause widespread air and groundwater pollution, etc.
The Regulations apply at two thresholds, depending on the site inventory of dangerous substances. If the lower threshold is exceeded, operators notify the competent authority and prepare a Major Accident Prevention Plan. If the upper threshold is exceeded, operators also provide a Safety Report and have an on-site emergency plan, and external authorities prepare an off-site emergency plan.

What are the key benefits?
Successful safety report submission indicates a buy-in by Inspectorates into the safety management systems and technical safety provisions for operating plant. A successful submission is therefore a form of legislative bench-marking and verification that operations fall within industry good practice.
Bureau Veritas teams can take on most of the separate technical and administrative tasks involved in safety report preparation leading to significant quality and efficiency gains in report compilation, and timely legislative approval.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS ?

Bureau Veritas has significant experience of safety report work in many parts of the world, ranging from Australia and the Middle East to France and the UK.

In addition, Bureau Veritas has expertise in many related technical activities, such as in pipework vibration, emergency systems survivability, and safety-related systems. Therefore, for example, when a safety report compiler needs verification of issues such as ALARP, Bureau Veritas can use its other expertise in delivering timely responses to meet report deadlines.

RELATED SERVICES

- Pipelines Safety Regulations
- Process Safety Management
- ALARP study
- Safety & Environmental audit
- Fire & Explosion consequence Assessment
- Spill & dispersion modeling
- Emergency systems audit
- ESSA and EERA
- ATEX/ DSEAR

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OUR APPROACH

Bureau Veritas offers services for safety case development, review, support and management.

Formalized hazard identification methods including FMEA studies, HAZOP, fault tree analysis & source/ pathway/receptor basis. Event frequency calculations are based on equipment failure databases and assessments of human reliability. Sensitive human and environmental receptors within the sphere of influence of major accidents are identified and the consequences are modeled.

Risk assessment uses Quantified Risk Assessment (QRA) or a risk matrix method with reference to appropriate national/corporate risk criteria.

Findings are reported as required in safety reports, assessments of the environmental impact of major accidents, accident consequence analysis, and environmental survey findings with recommendations for risk management.

FAQ

What about safety reports in non-oil & gas industries?
Bureau Veritas prepares safety reports for all types of industry. For example, our clients include companies in the chemical, pharmaceuticals and nuclear sectors

But Seveso II does not apply outside Europe?
True, but many countries and many major operators have recognized the benefit of this type of approach to safety management and have implemented similar systems. The term COMAH has been adopted by some non-European oil & gas operators when preparing safety reports that closely follow European formats.

CLIENT REFERENCES

Bureau Veritas can provide more than fifty major references for regulatory compliance assessments and safety cases at major hazard sites throughout Europe and the rest of the world - including sites operated by Chevron, Du Pont, Ashland, Texaco, Q8 Petroleum, Petroplus, Total, Eastham, Eka Nobel, ExxonMobil and Glaxo.

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