

## Newsletter – March 2023

### About the Forum

The Process Safety Forum (PSF) was set up to provide a platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors; to influence our stakeholders (including the Regulator); and to drive the process safety management performance agenda.

### Recent Activities and News

#### • New entrants to COMAH

PSF has requested information to help businesses transitioning from lower tier to upper tier within the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations, specifically:

- Screening out substances from the total qualifying quantity (2% rule).
- Potential for combining assessment methodologies, such that a single assessment meets the needs of COMAH, DSEAR, Occupational safety etc.
- Managing contractors
- Proportionate designation of safety critical equipment

PSF will discuss these topics at the next meeting.

#### • Sharing process safety knowledge with Slovenia

A recent chemical incident in Slovenia has highlighted gaps in Process Safety Knowledge. The [incident](#) highlighted the following gaps in knowledge:

- Gaps in process safety include competency, governance and management.
- Legislators do not engage with industry.
- There are no specific process safety qualifications available through colleges and universities.

PSF will work with the chemicals sector in Slovenia, through the Chamber of Commerce to help share best practice and the Process Safety Forum model.

### What's next for the PSF?

The PSF will seek to develop a response to the challenges set by the UK regulators (HSE and EA) on Net Zero and the impact this may have on process safety.

We will seek to work more closely with new forum members in Slovenia (see above) and the UK Biorisk Strategic Leadership Group (BSLG).

## Safety Messages

### Injury during maintenance activity

A worker sustained fractures to his vertebrae, with injuries that have been described as life-changing with his mobility still significantly affected and him not yet having returned to work. The injuries were sustained during a maintenance activity and highlights the importance of selecting the correct PPE for the task to be carried out, and the need to assess minor risks vs the hazard presented in addressing them. Further information on the incident can be found [here](#).

### Emergency pressure relief systems

The Chemical Safety Board (CSB) has recently published a safety alert on Hazards Posed by Discharges from Emergency Pressure-Relief Systems. For further information click [here](#).

For enquiries please contact the Process Safety Forum secretary or visit our website.

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