

Process Safety Forum

Progress Report
Winter 2012/13

Contents

Introduction from the Chair	3
About the Process Safety Forum	4
Sharing and Learning Activities	4
Process Safety Alerts	5
Learning Briefs	5
Other activities	5
Peer Review	5
Process Safety Performance Indicators	6
The Process Safety Management Project	6
Incident Reviews	6
Fukushima	6
Look Ahead for 2013	7
Sharing and Learning Activities	7
Incident Reviews	7
Other Activities and Events	7

Introduction from the Chair

On 29 May 2008, the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) hosted a conference for major hazard industries' Chief Executives and top managers. It was entitled 'Leading from the top – avoiding major incidents'.

James Purnell, then Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, noted in his address:

"I am also pleased to hear that representatives of the key major hazards sector Trade Associations have signalled today their commitment to improving the means of learning from each other. This initiative between the nuclear, oil, gas and petrochemical industries is one example of the wider learning that should follow from today."

In her closing remarks the conference Chairman Judith Hackitt CBE, Chair of the HSE, said:

"But my final sobering thought as you leave this room is that if we simply came here today to discuss, and nothing changes as a result of us having been here today, then it will be more than a pity, it could well be a tragedy."

And so in 2009 the Process Safety Forum (PSF) was established. A principal aim of the forum was to provide a platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors. In pursuing this objective, forum members have developed the following outputs:

- Learning briefs
- Safety alerts
- Incident review reports

It is then left to PSF Trade Associations to determine what of and how this information is passed on to their members.

The work of the forum has become more widely known and as a result the founding five organisations have been joined by a further six. Details of current membership will be found in the main report. There remain other sectors that have a particular interest and involvement in process safety and consideration will be given to seeking their involvement. However, if membership continues to grow, attention will have to be given as to how the forum sustains effective operation.

Looking back to the words of the HSE Chair in 2008, the establishment of the PSF has been a practical response to her challenge. A systematic approach to the collection and dissemination of learning has been established, and the forum will continue to seek ways in which it can provide positive help to industry as it pursues the goal of 'avoiding major incidents'.

Paul Thomas
December 2012

About the Process Safety Forum

The PSF was formed in 2009 to provide a platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across industry sectors; to influence other stakeholders (including the Regulators); and to drive the process safety management performance agenda.

The current membership of the Forum consists of the following Trade Associations and industry bodies:

- CBI Explosives Industries Group
- Chemical Business Association
- Chemical Industries Association
- Energy Networks Association
- Engineering Construction Industry Association
- Nuclear Industry Association
- Oil and Gas UK
- Rail Safety and Standards Board
- Tank Storage Association
- UK Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- UK Petroleum Industry Association

The Forum meets approximately once every three months and is chaired by Paul Thomas, CB.

Sharing and Learning Activities

One of the key aims of the Forum is to provide a platform whereby initiatives, best practice, lessons from incidents and process safety strategy can be distilled and shared across sectors.

Since the publication of the last progress report, the Forum is now actively sharing key initiatives such as the Process Safety Management Project – an industry led collaboration involving Regulators, Trade Unions and Skills bodies to develop standards for process safety training. The Forum continuously seeks to identify and disseminate information to its members from relevant process safety initiatives.

Individual Forum members continue to informally collaborate and network to share ideas relevant to process safety improvement across sectors.

Process Safety Alerts

The Forum continues to produce Process Safety Alerts with cross-sector relevance and learnings based on incident sharing between members, the most recent produced being:

- 007: Electricity Meter Maintenance

The Process Safety Alert has been distributed amongst forum Trade Association members, the Process Safety Leadership Group (PSLG) and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Alerts are also freely available from member websites.

Learning Briefs

Recognising that learning comes from other sources in addition to incidents and near misses, the PSF has also developed a system of Learning Briefs which are used to share relevant process safety information and best practices with forum members. The following Learning Briefs have been distributed amongst Forum Trade Association members in 2012.

- 001: OECD – Guidance on Corporate Governance for Process Safety
- 002: Chemical and Downstream Oil Industry Forum – Prior Use Guidance
- 003: Chemical and Downstream Oil Industry Forum – Other Products in Scope of the final Buncefield Process Safety Leadership Group

Other activities

The Forum has carried out the following cross sector reviews:

Peer Review. As part of its regular review and sharing of process safety initiatives and approaches across different sectors, Forum members considered the use of Peer Review in validating process safety performance and highlighting improvement opportunities. Peer Review occupies a broad spectrum in different industry sectors, with some sectors devoting extensive resources to it while other industries have evolved different ways of assuring process safety performance that are appropriate to their specific sectors.

The Forum's discussion and sharing on Peer Review suggested that one factor that seems to characterise industries which use Peer Review extensively is relative uniformity of hazard or process. Hence it is widespread in the nuclear industry for example, but is less common in the chemical and related industries where there is greater diversity of hazard (flammable, toxic, biological), process and scale. The review showed that where it is used, the process can deliver significant process safety benefits in terms of:

- Validating plant and operator performance against documented procedures and criteria
- Highlighting strengths and improvement opportunities, leading to Action Plans to optimise process safety management
- Sharing best practice and approaches to operational and technical aspects

Process Safety Performance Indicators (PSPI). This is a review of sector level PSPI to establish how the roles of each Trade Association and Regulatory body differ in respect of producing sector-level guidance, monitoring, setting PSPI, and setting targets. The output of this activity is a briefing note distributed within the Forum detailing the findings of the review and its aim is to identify learning opportunities and generate debate across the Trade Associations and their industry sectors.

The Process Safety Management (PSM) Project. The PSM Project is a cross-sector initiative formed to produce training Standards for process safety training and to develop training packages that meet the needs of industry. Led by industry and industry associations, the Project also has representatives from the Skills bodies, HSE, Trade Unions, Institute of Chemical Engineers, and consultant training providers. Because of the cross-sector approach to process safety training, there are natural synergies with the work of PSF which has been kept updated with progress at successive meetings in 2012.

The PSM Project, through its Project Board and Expert Panel bodies, has produced three process safety Standards – Leadership for Senior Executives, Process Safety Management Foundations, and Process Safety for Operations – reflecting the interactive roles of leaders, managers, and operators & maintenance in maintaining effective process safety. The take-up of the initial training offered in the first year of the Project has been extremely encouraging, and the feedback excellent from companies that have undertaken it. Experience will continue to be shared across PSF in 2013 to maximise the cross-sector benefits.

Incident Reviews

Fukushima. PSF reviewed the Final Report on the Japanese Earthquake and Tsunami: Implications for the UK Nuclear industry. The aim of the review was to identify any issues, recommendations and learning points relevant to other major hazard sectors represented at the Forum.

The review findings indicated that many of the issues and recommendations raised were already being addressed by the sectors represented by the Forum, particularly those relating to risk assessment, emergency response and the review of design cases.

The Forum has shared with its members the findings of this review, and sign-posted to where many of the relevant issues are felt to have been addressed through other initiatives and working groups.

Look Ahead for 2013

Sharing and Learning Activities. The Forum will continue to share initiatives through Safety Alerts and Learning Briefs, and will engage fully with new members.

Incident Reviews. The following incidents will be reviewed by the Forum members for potential learning in the coming period:

- Gulf of Mexico Macondo Well, 2010
- Flixborough 40 years on

Other Activities and Events. Following the successful Conference event in London in 2011, the Forum will investigate holding a second PSF event in the future.