

Major Accident Prevention Policy



The Oil and Pipelines Agency (OPA) recognises that the nature of its activities could give rise to major accident hazards. This policy statement demonstrates how the OPA actively manages these hazards to prevent a major accident. Accountability for the provision of a safe and healthy working environment rests with the Leadership Team and is cascaded through the normal chain of management as defined in the OPA organogram and by actively engaging with the workforce. The Leadership team will implement the OPA HSE Management System through active leadership, sound procedures and guidelines, effective training programmes and good communications throughout all levels within the organisation.

The OPA allocates adequate resource and finances to ensure effective management of our business to meet our obligations to reduce the risks in order to prevent a major accident. The OPA:

- Identifies the roles and responsibilities of those involved in the management of major hazards, identifies and provides for their training needs via the Competency Management System (CMS).
- Applies risk analysis methods to identify major accident hazards and scenarios, and suitable control measures to prevent and mitigate the effects of a major accident. The identification and evaluation of hazards covers all phases of our operations including storage, fuel transfer and control of emissions to the environment. These are detailed in the Bow Ties.
- Ensures appropriate Operating and Maintenance Procedures are developed, adopted, and implemented to exercise control over all aspects of the OPA's operations. Safety critical tasks are clearly identified within the procedures in order to address aspects of human factors.
- Requires its contractors to manage Health, Safety and Environment in line with this policy.
- Ensures that plant modifications and organisational changes are planned. Changes are performed in a controlled manner using OPA internal procedures and software tools. Management of Change (MoC) covers both permanent and temporary changes and also includes emergency changes.
- Provides emergency response preparedness planning in line with the identified major accident scenarios and strives to continually improve these arrangements through regular training, exercises and sharing of lessons learned both internally and externally.
- All accidents/incidents/near-misses are reported and monitored. Corrective actions determined by investigations are recorded and implemented to a set deadline in accordance with the OPA Incident Investigation procedure. OPA promotes honest and open incident reporting and the sharing of lessons learned both internally and externally by maintaining relationships with wider organisations and utilising external information sources for active and reactive learnings.
- Conducts regular internal audits across all locations and activities to ensure adherence to safe working practices and procedures, as well as verifying safety critical plant is maintained and operated correctly. Corrective actions are recorded and implemented to a set deadline in accordance with the OPA Audit procedure.
- Develops active and reactive Process Safety Performance Indicators (PSPI's) in accordance with the procedure on development of PSPIs, to monitor achievement of the OPA HSE Management System.

The OPA strives for continual improvement through commitment to best practice.

- Uses its Annual Business Plan to set targets for continual improvement; to measure, appraise and report performance on its HSE, Compliance and Process Safety performance objectives.
- The Senior Leadership Team is responsible for the governance of this policy. It continually monitors and measures our HSE performance in accordance with the Corporate Risk Register, 10 Pillar Audits, PSPI's, Site Improvement Plans and the Compliance Matrix, and uses these measures to prioritise compliance objectives.
- The OPA Board actively engages with the Senior Leadership Team to gain assurance that this policy is being applied and continuous improvements are made to the control and prevention of Major accidents.


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