

Health and Safety Executive
HID Headquarters Unit 1E
St Annes House
Bootle L20 3RA

Consultation on Draft Guidance: Safe isolation of plant and equipment

Dear Sirs

1. I am writing to invite comments on the attached draft guidance.
2. The Oil Industry Advisory Committee asked HSE to review and revise the existing guidance. Industry meetings were held, and specific issues raised have been addressed by a working group. This group comprised members of the Health and Safety Executive's Hazardous Installations Directorate (HID) and representatives from the following organisations:

UKPIA	(Shell UK Oil Products)
CIA	(CIBA Speciality Chemicals PLC)
UKOOA	(Crescent Engineering, BP Exploration Operating Company Ltd, Petrofac Production Services, Wood Group engineering)
TGWU	(Shell UK Oil Products)

3. Key issues for this revision (on which we would particularly appreciate your comments) include:
 - a. The role of human factors in avoiding loss of containment.
 - b. The importance of good design (for both new plant and modifications).
 - c. Guidance that follows a 'time line' sequence for users (chapter 6).
 - d. Situations where particular consideration is required eg own isolations, extended term isolations.
 - e. A revised and recalibrated selection tool (which is now simpler to apply).
 - f. Discussion of particular situations eg 'own isolations', extended term isolations.
 - g. Assessment and authorisation of any 'variations' from company standards.
 - h. Inclusion of checklists for monitoring and review.
4. It would also be particularly helpful if you can highlight:
 - a. Any instances where the selection tool indicates a baseline method that differs significantly from your minimum acceptable standard. In such cases, it would be particularly helpful if you can provide details of the specific situation (ie the input factors to the tool plus any further significant considerations).
 - b. Any significant omissions or, indeed, any material which you feel could be omitted to shorten the current draft.

5. An MS Word file is attached. This contains both the main text of the guidance and the supporting appendices. If you have any difficulty in reading the attachment, or if there is anything else that you wish to clarify, please let me know.
6. It would be helpful if we could have your comments, or an indication that you are unable/do not wish to be involved in the consultation, by **03 December 2004**. Please send replies to me, as detailed below.

Yours faithfully

Ruth Franklin

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