

DRAFT FOR COMMENT

UKOPA Emergency Planning Work Group PERO Competency Requirements

Introduction

The PERO (Pipeline Emergency Response Officer) is a generic role agreed and operated by UKOPA members to ensure cross industry consistency in operator response to pipeline emergency incidents in the UK.

The competency requirements for this role are defined below.

The Role and Responsibilities of the PERO

Role

The PERO will have an operational or supervisory role in a pipeline operating company with direct involvement in pipeline operations and safety management. In this role, the person assigned as PERO will have detailed knowledge of:-

pipeline function, its operation and control, construction features and associated plant and equipment,

pipeline route and infrastructure along the route, and the route profile,

the pipeline operating procedures (specifically safe operations, shut down, isolation, management of damaged pipelines, repair, recommissioning)

The pipeline operator's emergency procedures and emergency response arrangements

The properties of the product and its characteristics and behaviour (in relation to effects on people and the environment) if released.

Incident communications and notifications

Responsibilities

As the assigned PERO for the pipeline operator the immediate responsibility is to provide on-site liaison with the Emergency Services on behalf of the pipeline operator, which will involve the following:-

- Represent the operator of the pipeline involved in the incident.
- Attend site and liaise directly with the emergency services
- Provide on-site support and advice relating to the pipeline and product
- Communicates with other operator personnel involved in operation and provision of technical information required to handle and control the incident.
- Liaison with other service providers' representatives at the scene
- Provide guidance and, if required by the Company's procedures, supervision and direction of teams called by the Pipeline Operator to handle specific aspects of the incident;
- Keeping a log of events, key communications and decisions;

The PERO will also be responsible for keeping the Pipeline Operator's management and the staff at PICR fully informed about the situation at the scene, including taking action to minimise the consequences of the incident, and make the incident scene safe. In addition, depending upon individual operator company policy, the PERO may be responsible for press briefings in the absence of a press representative.

PERO Competency Requirements

In accordance with the principles of the UKOPA Competency Framework, a person's competency to carry out the PERO role is determined by assessing their theoretical and practical knowledge and experience against a defined competency profile which covers the requirements of the tasks to be undertaken. The theoretical and practical knowledge and experience requirements are detailed below:-

Theoretical Knowledge	Description	Source/Examples
Qualification	External education/training bodies	HND, HNC, OND, ONC, City & Guilds, NVQ
Training	Company procedures – H,S&E, PTW, operational procedures, emergency procedures	Internal Company training programme
	Role of the PERO, Emergency services	Industry (UKOPA PERO) training course
Knowledge	Pipeline design, operation, features, control	On the job training/experience
	Product information, characteristics, behaviour, effects	Company briefing and awareness training
	LA Emergency Plans	Company briefing material
Experience	Involvement in desk top and live play exercises	Industry (UKOPA PERO) training course

Practical Knowledge	Source	Source/Examples
Training	Communications protocol and procedure, including operational communication with pipeline control centre Safe Operations (PTW) Operation of pipeline equipment Incident response and categorisation procedure	Internal Company training programme
	Operation of pipeline equipment	Internal Company training programme
	Liaison with the Emergency	Industry (UKOPA PERO) training

Practical Knowledge	Source	Source/Examples
	Services	course
	Management of damaged pipelines, including:- Damage assessment Repair	Company specific training course
Knowledge	Pipeline specific data :- Surveillance Monitoring Inspection	Company briefing information and on the job experience
Experience	Communication with Emergency Planners and Emergency services	Industry (UKOPA PERO) training course On the job experience
	Emergency Response	Industry (UKOPA PERO) training course Involvement in planned company emergency exercises.

Sufficient Experience	Description	Source/Examples
Pipeline Operations and route awareness	Operational procedures and assessment of company pipeline data	1 year operational experience
Operation of pipeline equipment	Operation of valves, actuators, use and interpretation of on-site instrumentation	At least three recorded instances of practical involvement in routine or non-routine operations
Liaison with Emergency Planners and Emergency Services	Discussion of requirements, contact information, information exchange requirements	Attendance of at least one scheduled meeting with Emergency Planners/Emergency Services
Emergency response	Participation in company emergency response exercises	Involvement in at least one company emergency procedure test in a three year period.
	Participation in Emergency Plan Test	Involvement in at least one LA emergency plan test in 3 year period