

From The Chair

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Leading from the Top – Maintaining Progress on Avoiding Major Accidents

Following on from the April conference and my previous letter of 29 May I am writing to inform you about a number of initiatives which have resulted from the conference and to encourage you to engage with these initiatives. We would also ask that you spread the word among other businesses in your sector, perhaps via Trade Association Networks.

Some follow-up initiatives

- One of the most important follow-up initiatives which has been taken is by the Process Safety Leadership Group. They will be hosting an event in London on 11 November for Senior staff and Directors of all onshore major hazard companies to share good practice and experience in process safety leadership and identify where further improvement is needed. The flyer for the event is attached and I would like to add my personal encouragement to you to attend.
- Discussions are taking place involving three of the key trade associations (UKPIA, Oil and Gas UK and NIA) to establish much closer working and experience sharing between member companies in the area of leadership.
- A small number of companies in the nuclear and offshore industry have been making great progress with the plant specific 'Dashboard' system to provide succinct and current information to operational staff and the status of key safety mechanisms and indicators. Others have expressed interest in adopting such a system and are watching developments closely.
- The development of meaningful leading indicators as described in HSG 254 (Developing Process Safety Indicators) has been picked up by a number of companies.
- The peer review process developed by WANO (World Association of Nuclear Operators) has been extended to a joint review of control room operations recently carried out by staff from Sellafield, National Grid and Centrica. They plan to present the findings of this review at an IOSH event in the near future.

Maintaining the Commitment and Momentum

All of the above examples demonstrate real commitment to make progress in addressing this important issue of Process Safety Leadership and avoiding major incidents throughout the major hazards sector.

HSE will continue to place this high on our strategic agenda, we will continue to support and encourage you, in whatever way we can, but we are also clear that the leadership initiative rests with you in industry. The April conference material is now accessible via the HSE website as both a storyboard and a short video of edited highlights of the day. We've also contributed recent articles to a number of trade and professional journals as part of our effort to maintain a high profile for the subject. We would encourage you to give process safety leadership the same profile through your own key stakeholder publications including Annual Reports.

I will continue to write to you from time to time to provide further progress reports and I would be very pleased to hear from you if you have any new ideas or want to inform us about work you are undertaking to progress Process Safety Leadership.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Hackitt', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Judith Hackitt
Chair, Health and Safety Executive