

## **Update on the proposed amendments to the Pipelines Safety Regulations 1996 following further consultation with stakeholders.**

Following analysis of stakeholder responses to the initial consultation on the proposed amendments to PSR, HSE subsequently made refinements to some of the proposals, giving stakeholders the opportunity to provide comments by the 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010.

HSE received five responses, made up of two from industry relating to the definition of gasoline and three from local authorities who raised concerns in relation to the revised definition of a local authority.

- Definition of gasoline – Respondents wanted to ensure that the definition covered both the base fuel product conveyed by pipeline and the finished fuel product once additives are added at the refinery. The original definition has now been modified and agreed with key industry representatives.
- Definition of Local Authority – The revised definition of local authority formed part of the original consultation; however HSE did not receive any comments at that time. Following liaison with stakeholders and the HSE legal adviser the definition has now been amended and agreed with stakeholders.

The position on the inclusion of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) as a dangerous fluid remains the same. As [previously announced](#) HSE believes it is too early in the process of developing this new technology to legislate in this area and consequently has taken the decision to postpone this amendment. HSE will continue to work with industry and will review this decision as the science and evidence base develops

HSE would like to thank stakeholders for their responses and their continued support in the development of the proposed amendments to PSR.

### **Current Situation**

Since the consultation the Coalition Government has made it a key priority to reduce regulation. New guidelines have been introduced and HSE along with other Government departments have reviewed all proposed regulatory measures, including the amendments to PSR, to ensure that they are in line with the Coalition's objectives.

This review highlighted that further work is now required to ensure the introduction of any additional legislation is the most effective way of delivering the aims of major hazard controls. In line with these new guidelines HSE is now planning to engage with stakeholders to discuss the feasibility of carrying out further research to strengthen the current evidence base i.e. by updating data held on historical gasoline pipeline events, along with actively exploring if there are any practical alternatives to regulation i.e. guidance that could achieve a similar outcome.

To allow time for this work to be carried out HSE has taken the decision not to progress the proposed amendments to PSR and updating of L82 guidance at this time. The introduction of the cost recovery regime for PSR will be similarly deferred.

Once this work has been completed and the evidence for both regulatory/non – regulatory options have been thoroughly scrutinised, HSE will be in a position to make a decision on the most effective way forward. HSE will continue to update stakeholders as this work develops.

If you would like any further information please:

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