

Managing Operational Hazards

Workplace Safety Rule Focuses on Systems

In addition to the drilling safety rule issued by BOEMRE, a workplace safety rule has also been issued covering safety and environmental management systems (SEMS). SEMS is a comprehensive management program for identifying, addressing and managing operational safety hazards and impacts in order to promote workplace and human safety as well as to protect the environment. The new rule makes mandatory the American Petroleum Institute's Recommended Practice 75 (RP 75) which is currently voluntary.

Workplace safety rule highlights include:

- General provisions for implementing, planning and management review of the SEMS program
- Hazards analysis to include a facility-level risk assessment
- Programs for addressing any facility or operational changes such as management changes or shift changes
- Evaluation of operations and written procedures as well as safe work practice manuals and training to include contractors
- Safe work practices manuals, standards or rules of conduct
- Preventive maintenance programs including quality control to show mechanical integrity
- Pre-start up review of all systems
- Emergency response and control plans such as emergency evacuation and oil spill recovery – plans are to be in place and validated by drills
- Records and documentation as well as audits to the various workplace safety programs
- Procedures for investigating incidents, corrective action and follow-up
- Auditing the program within two years of implementation and then at least once every three years thereafter

ABS Consulting, an affiliate company of ABS, is able to serve clients in the area of workplace safety programs. This group of veteran engineers, auditors and process safety and risk professionals has helped various industries and

government agencies wanting to significantly change their level of safety performance.

Specialists in safety and management systems are uniquely qualified to perform a range of hazard analyses from the application of hazard and operability (HAZOP) analysis to what-if analysis techniques as well as other methodologies. Two proprietary software technologies available from ABS Consulting, THESIS and IMSIS, were developed specifically to create and manage robust safety management systems.



For more information, visit the ABS Consulting website at www.absconsulting.com. Navigate to the safety management section.