

Global Risk Communication: Industry Focus Groups: Specialization for Your Industry Needs

Global Risk Consultants (GRC) responds to client needs through Industry Focus Groups by providing engineers that utilize our existing network along with trained resources to help our client's reduce their level of risk. Instead of relying on one or two engineers who are knowledgeable in a specific industry and travel worldwide, we have created Industry Practice Groups so our network of engineers can address specific industries and their needs.

One such client that benefits from these Industry Focus Groups is a Chemical Industry leader who decided to partner with GRC for our expertise, our consultative approach, and strong commitment to help reduce exposures at sites. This particular client operates in multiple aspects of the Chemical Industry, but our experienced engineers and specialized Chemical Practice Group allows GRC to go beyond simple field analysis. Our strong global account teams operate on a worldwide basis to meet all servicing needs. We conducted a Supply Chain analysis for the large chemical complex focusing on the technical aspects, with an emphasis on property damage and business interruption, thus helping our client minimize both types of damage and create added value.

Clients often ask, what are the key property loss control aspects to look for at a chemical site? There are multiple responses but the best approach is to evaluate the problem and dedicate time with a focus on specific elements. For instance, if you are looking for property insurance capacity you will look at Probable Maximum Losses (PMLs) or Maximum Foreseeable Losses (MFLs). In many instances, a catastrophic event could occur such as a Vapor Cloud Explosion (VCE). VCEs occur with the unplanned release of a large quantity of flammable gas or a vaporizing liquid which ignites following the formation of a cloud or plume of pre-mixed fuel and air. The speed of the flame travelling through the cloud may approach detonation



velocity with a massive pressure rise. You cannot expect to reduce VCE impact through loss prevention engineering surveys *alone*, but you can work on reducing the likelihood of such events. This is where GRC engineers can help. There are many ways to calculate VCEs and one has to make engineering assumptions for these calculations. The impact of this can be significant on the results with a direct influence on the PMLs/MFLs.

Once the catastrophic evaluation is complete, GRC is able to work on risk reduction with automatic protections and bring a strong emphasis on process safety. Process steps as well as possible by-products or runaway reactions are properly identified. For the Chemical Industry client, it was noted that the process control was different from one site to the other. By exploring this at a deeper level we were able to dig into Safety



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Integrated Systems (SIS) and the Process Safety Management. An internal GRC initiative focused on learning the published International standard (IEC 61511), which had been intended to provide guidance to end-users on the application of SIS in the process industries. As a result of the initiative, conversations on Hazop studies, SWIFT (structured what-if studies), and other hazard analysis tools led to further discussions on Safety Integrated Levels (SIL). This involved detailed discussions on SIL for the various components of all safety process lines including probes, switches, and sensors, as well as the probability for each component to fail. This is where discrepancies usually exist but specialized industry partners can provide greater and more accurate detail.

Another significant part of our expertise is to review Human Element procedures. By-passes of SIL devices, for example, are not normally authorized yet there are still a number of reasons for such by-passes.

In spite of strict procedures and controls, six potential issues that must be identified and corrected:

- Technology Change
- Process Change
- Equipment Change
- Personnel Change
- Temporary Measures
- Emergency Situations



The role of a GRC specialized engineer is to make sure procedures are known and implemented.

Our Industry Focus Groups work to stay on top of current issues and provide support to these specific industries including but not limited to:

- Chemical, Petrochemical, Oil, and Gas
- Mining and Ore/Minerals Processing
- Electronics/Semiconductor
- Pharmaceutical
- Food and Grain
- Power Generation and Utility
- Forest Products & Packaging
- Power Plant Risk Surveys
- Manufacturing
- Real Estate, Retail, and Related

Industry losses can be significant and GRC focuses on identifying what could go wrong, bring best practices on-site, and reduce the likelihood of such harmful events occurring.

A close relationship where the client and property loss control consultant work together in the same direction is ideal for risk improvement. This specialized knowledge helps companies pinpoint what to focus on and how to address their sites properly, allowing for smooth function and proper loss prevention.



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