



BOOKS

MODEL CODE OF SAFE PRACTICE: GUIDELINES FOR THE CONTROL OF HAZARDS ARISING FROM STATIC ELECTRICITY

Energy Institute (EI)

Content + + + +

Presentation + + + +

Value + + + +



The Energy Institute (EI) has already produced a 12-minute training DVD on the dangers of static electricity in the downstream petroleum industry (www.healthandsafetyatwork.com/hsw/review/ei-static-electricity). This book is the model code of practice on which the DVD is based, and gives much more technical detail and background than would be appropriate in the awareness raising DVD.

Like the DVD, the code concentrates on refineries, distribution terminals, onshore pipelines, road tanker operations and filling stations, as well as airport refuelling — though the content would be relevant to any operation handling bulk flammable liquids. Its aim is to help organisations carry out risk assessments for fire and explosion hazard, as required, for example, under the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR).

Now in its third edition, the document was originally drafted by consultant Harold Walmsley and modified by the EI's electrical committee, which includes representatives of stakeholders in the petrochemicals sector. The committee also includes HSE representation, though this resulting document is not formally approved by the HSE, either as an approved code of practice or in any other way; so it has the status of an industry standard that reflects good practice.

After setting its scope and intended use, the code covers general design implications of the static hazard before looking at specific downstream handling operations. These are covered in dedicated chapters and include road and rail loading, storage tanks, ship/barge operations, containers, filling stations, maintenance and testing, and aircraft fuelling.

The final two further chapters cover liquefied petroleum and natural gases (LPG and

LNG) as well as offshore operations. There are four annexes. The first covers the technical background to static as an ignition hazard in the handling of flammable materials; the second is a model risk assessment; the remaining two provide a glossary of key terms and a list of references.

The important point to appreciate is that this document is aimed at an entirely different audience from the DVD. The latter was written to raise general awareness at any level of staff, whereas this code is pitched at engineers and safety specialists responsible for safety in design, construction and procedure, and for carrying out risk assessments of existing and proposed operations.

It's therefore harder going on the reader, but the EI has done its best to make it user friendly, in particular, by laying the text out well and breaking it up with headings, tables and line drawings. There are also many decision trees to help you work your way through particular issues, such as "precautions to be taken for the manual gauging or sampling of storage tanks" and "conditions required before an electrostatic ignition can occur".

The EI is offering a hard copy of this model code of safe practice at half price if you buy it at the same time as the DVD. Even the discounted price (£82.50) seems steep for a 100 page document but, as with the DVD, the cost is insignificant when compared with the financial impact of the catastrophic losses that following the code should help prevent.

PAUL SMITH

Price: £165

Website: www.energypublishing.org

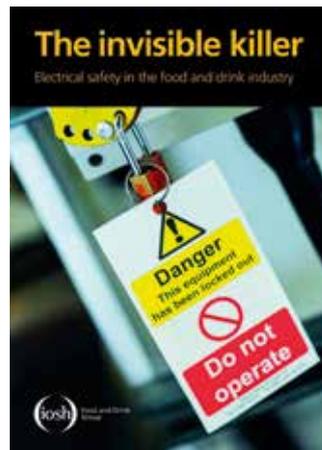
THE INVISIBLE KILLER: ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE FOOD AND DRINK INDUSTRY

IOSH food and drink group

Content + + + +

Presentation + + + +

Value + + + +



Electricity is one of those hazards, like fire and slips, trips and falls, that is present in every home

and workplace. Its very ubiquity can lead to complacency about the real dangers; for example, risks that can be increased in a food manufacturing setting by fast paced production requirements and the constant need to wash and clean equipment, much of it electrical.

Recognising this, the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health's food and drink group has produced this training film to highlight the key dangers and precautions to take to ensure safe working.

Managers, electricians and operators all need to understand these points, but their knowledge and perspectives will be slightly different, so the film offers different programmes for these three target groups.

All three programmes share an introduction, which merges footage of an electrical accident at work with a sombre but not scary sequence of the lead up to an electric chair execution.

The same sequence is also used at the end of each programme to remind people that careless working with electricity can amount to "giving yourself a death sentence".

From the first few moments of the programme, I knew I was watching something that had been put together with great thought and to the most professional production standards. This really is a first class piece of work.

I especially liked the programme for electricians, which could easily have been patronising but which instead appeals to their professionalism and competence, presenting them not only as a key group at risk of electrical accidents, but also as the guardians of other workers' electrical safety.

The sections for operators and for managers and supervisors are also sound, but these have similar messages and there is considerable overlap in content between the two.

Each programme follows the same lines, with an attention grabbing introduction, mention of the main hazards of electricity and then tailored guidelines for each group.

As you would expect, the electricians' programme concentrates on safe working and, in particular, isolation and proving systems dead, as well as how to work safely on live

installations, where that is justified and permitted.

The operator and manager/supervisor programmes focus more on the need to report defects, ensure that leads and sockets are checked before use and handled safely, and that wet cleaning does not compromise electrical safety. The tips also touch on the use of personal electrical

equipment and the dangers of fault fixing by people who are not electrically competent.

This is far more than a great training film, as it's backed up by a complete package of resources to help you increase its impact.

These include high quality colour leaflets for managers and employees, a toolbox talk, quizzes to test understanding and also model electrical safety posters that can be used as part of a publicity campaign to reinforce the messages in the training.

One statement did just raise my eyebrow. It takes the example of a domestic cooker drawing 30 amps to show the high energy present even in a home setting, and warns "this is more than enough energy or current to cause a significant electric shock". I'll say, when that's 1000 times the maximum safe current through the body, given as 30mA.

Overall a superb package, highly recommended — and, amazingly, it's free.

PAUL SMITH

Price: Free
Website: www.lexisurl.com/hsw17535



CONFLICT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Maybo

Content ++++
Usability ++++
Presentation ++++

Some companies specialise in e-learning covering a large number of topics. Others focus on one topic, and produce specialised e-learning to support it.

Conflict management specialist Maybo fits into the second category, having developed skills in conflict management training through classroom courses, on site training, and teaching people to train others.

Maybo's e-learning courses come in several variations, focusing, for example, on workers in the health and social care sectors, lone workers, and youth and children's workers, as well as those more obvious security related occupations.



A typical course consists of five modules, sandwiched between a short survey and an evaluation. The pre-course survey asks the learner about their role, how much they feel exposed to violence at work, and how well prepared they are to deal with it.

The end of course evaluation invites learners to give their opinions of how well the course has improved their knowledge, awareness and understanding. Survey and evaluation information is used by the client to inform risk assessments and to identify further training needs, and by Maybo to improve its products and services.

Learner assessment is provided through multiple-choice questions at the end of each module. There are two chances to answer each question (with four options available), so learners have a 50/50 chance of getting the right response, even if they did not understand the information. The pass mark is adjustable.

Content

Aside from the surveys and evaluations, the five standard teaching modules cover recognition of risk; understanding human behaviour; how to choose positive interactions; how to defuse, calm and resolve; and personal safety awareness.

There is a good sprinkling of activities among the text, and the best parts of the course are the case studies, where the learner is shown a potentially hazardous situation and given choices to make, such as moving their character on a picture of the situation or selecting the right thing to say.

There is an excellent twist in the hazard spotting exercise. Instead of the normal "click randomly until you find them" approach, the user has to list the hazards they identify in a free-text input box.

The correct answers are then shown, and the learner compares their answers with the ideal answers. At the moment, only the lone worker module captures free-text answers for later discussion, but Maybo will consider extending this if there is customer demand.

There is audio narration for all the content screens, duplicating the screen text. You can switch off the sound and focus on reading without loss of information. The soundtrack does mean that on some screens you have to stay on the screen longer than it takes to read the content.

Learning system

You can use Maybo's e-learning with your existing (SCORM compliant) learning management system (LMS) or you can use Maybo's LMS at no extra cost. With Maybo's system you can edit or add tests and surveys, add customised content, link to company documents, and even cross charge within your organisation. The LMS includes all the features you would expect.

User management features include the ability to invite and remind users via email, create users individually or in batches, and group users by department, role or location. It is possible to create a variety of management reports and schedule by course, user, survey or exam, then present them as bar graphs, pie charts or tables. You can download reports as pdf files, and import charts into other applications.

I'd prefer not to be reminded quite so many times during the course that Maybo is a leader in "conflict management training", and wonder whether the balance between checking the learner's understanding and finding out what they think of the course is right. Despite these minor reservations, this would be a useful awareness raising course.

Maybo is clear that this is not an alternative to face to face training, where that is required. It could help decide whether someone needs more comprehensive training, and would provide a useful way of giving an annual refresher after classroom training. Maybo has mapped each module to national occupational standards, helping employers see where this fits the training needs of their staff.

BRIDGET LEATHLEY

Price: A three-year organisational licence costs from £5000 or individual course licences can be purchased for £25.
Website: www.maybo.co.uk