

ONSHORE GAS AND PIPELINES SECTOR STRATEGY

2014-17

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Avoiding catastrophe

1 HSE will direct its resources to preventing and mitigating major accident hazards. It will do this by:

- Ensuring dutyholders apply inherent safety principles in managing risks.
- Implementing a robust COMAH safety report and GSMR safety case assessment and review process to ensure risks are identified and control measures are in place before onshore sites come into operation and that standards are maintained.
- Prioritising interventions based on the inherent hazards of the site and/or pipeline, performance of dutyholders in controlling risks and other defined operational intelligence.
- Undertaking interventions in line with HSE's [HID Regulatory Model](#) and in particular focusing on how well dutyholders manage major hazard risks by sampling arrangements in key areas.
- Identifying the underlying, as well as the immediate, causes of any deficiencies in dutyholders arrangements for managing risks.
- Taking action to ensure immediate and underlying causes of failures of risk management are addressed.

Personal health and safety risks

2 The onshore gas and pipelines sector generally has a good record in managing personal health and safety risks compared to the many other UK industry sectors. As a result, HSE has not set aims or objectives in this area and will limit its activity to:

- Target interventions on occupational health risks that are least well managed and pose greatest risk to the workforce e.g. Hand Arm Vibration
- Deal with matters of evident concern¹ identified during inspection and investigations
- Investigate accidents and complaints in accordance with its mandatory incident selection criteria and complaints policies

AIM 1 – LEADERSHIP: The onshore gas and pipelines industry demonstrates effective leadership in managing major hazard risks.

¹ Matters of evident concern [MEC] are those that create a risk of serious personal injury or ill-health and which are observed (i.e. self evident) or brought to the attention of an inspector [[OC 18/12](#)].

Objective 1: The industry has effective arrangements for identifying, sharing and learning lessons for controlling major hazard risks.

Objective 2: The industry and dutyholders have reliable safety performance information to provide assurance that major hazard risks are properly controlled.

AIM 2 – COMPETENCE: Dutyholders demonstrate competence to manage major hazard risks.

Objective 3: Dutyholders have arrangements to ensure that leaders, staff and contractors, at all levels in safety critical roles, are competent.

AIM 3 – ASSET INTEGRITY: The integrity of onshore gas and pipeline sector assets are ensured throughout their life cycle.

Objective 4: Duty holders demonstrate asset integrity throughout the lifecycle of their assets.

Objective 5: Dutyholders participate in, promote and develop information systems to reduce the likelihood and extent of third party damage to pipelines.

Objective 6: Dutyholders incorporate safety considerations in the design, construction and operation of new gas storage and LNG importation facilities.

Objective 7: Health and safety risks from emerging technologies are identified, addressed at the design stage and managed effectively throughout the asset lifetime.

AIM 4 – EMERGENCIES: Dutyholders have effective arrangements in place to respond to and mitigate emergencies.

Objective 8: The GDNs demonstrate the effectiveness of their gas supply emergency plans through participation in NEC emergency exercises and reviews.

Objective 9: MAHP operators demonstrate the effectiveness of their emergency arrangements.

Objective 10: At COMAH sites, operators demonstrate the effectiveness of their on-site emergency arrangements and Local Authorities demonstrate the effectiveness of their off-site emergency arrangements in consultation with operators.

AIM 5 – WORKER ENGAGEMENT: Workers and employee representatives engage actively in health and safety matters and in particular, major hazard issues.

Objective 11: Dutyholders ensure that safety representatives are sufficiently aware of major accident hazard risks and control measures.

AIM 6 – REGULATORY APPROACH: The regulation of major hazard risks is proportionate, targeted, consistent and transparent and HSE is accountable to the public for its actions.

Objective 12: HSE interventions are targeted, transparent and made consistent by:

- Prioritising interventions by taking account of the inherent hazard of the operation and the performance of the dutyholder in controlling risks.
- Discussing the development of, sharing with and explaining intervention plans to dutyholders.
- Publishing details of the standards against which HSE assesses compliance.
- Explaining the reasons for its regulatory decisions and actions.

Objective 13: HSE has sufficient staff capability to deliver the strategy.

Objective 14: HSE will bring forward arrangements and legislation for implementing the Seveso III Directive.

Objective 15: HSE works with the onshore gas and pipelines industry in Great Britain to develop and promote proportionate and robust standards for managing major hazard risks in the sector.

AIM 7 – INVESTIGATIONS & SECURING JUSTICE : HSE promotes sustained compliance with the law and holds dutyholders to account for contravening health and safety requirements.

Objective 16: HSE undertakes investigations in accordance with HSE and HID investigation policies to ensure failings are identified and shared with industry.

Objective 17: HSE secures compliance with the law by taking action in accordance with its [Enforcement Policy Statement](#) and [Enforcement Management Model](#).

Objective 18: HSE initiates prosecutions in accordance with the requirements of the Code for Crown Prosecutors in England & Wales and in Scotland, recommends prosecution to the Crown Office & Procurator Fiscal Service in line with the Lord Advocates Code Practice.