



European Solvents Industry Group

Advice and help in hydrocarbon
and oxygenated solvents

www.esig.org

CASE STUDY - An example of Product stewardship in action: Shell's safety appraisal service.

The safe handling of solvents through the whole chain of production and use is critical for best practice and results. Indeed, a manufacturer's operating licence depends increasingly on its products being handled safely. Manufacturers always ensure customers have up to date information and advice about solvents.

One example of product stewardship in action is a safety appraisal service from Shell Chemicals, an ESIG member who developed its programme to ensure maximum safety at customer handling and storage facilities.

An expert team trained in specialist risk appraisal techniques at Shell's Chester (UK) operation undertakes safety appraisals of customer product reception facilities and trains Shell personnel and customers across Europe to identify potential risks.

A two hour appraisal with a customer representative includes checking electrical equipment, discharge facilities, emissions and unloading procedures against set standards. Proximity to residential areas and access roads are considered along with details like earthing bonds on storage tanks and flame arrestors on vent pipes. An overall score is calculated - the lower the score the lower the risk level.

"The survey is not an examination, but an opportunity to offer advice in areas where we have particular knowledge," explains Pat Murray of Shell's health and safety team. "The assessor always has an extensive understanding of product handling. The check list is also available separately to allow customers to do their own self appraisal."

Fisher Scientific UK recently benefited from the audit programme with an appraisal of storage facilities at their Loughborough plant where pharmaceutical intermediates, fine chemicals and high purity solvents are manufactured.

"Safety is paramount and we required confirmation that we are doing everything possible to minimise risk to our staff and the environment. Recommendations were dealt with quickly and we are confident that our solvents are being handled in as safe a manner as possible", commented Keith Robinson, Chemical Production Manager.

Other ESIG members have similar safety service schemes in place and work with customers to provide easy-to-implement guidelines to ensure continuing safe use of the solvents necessary in everyday life in many applications.

**For more information please contact the ESIG secretariat in Brussels,
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