

Safety management system: From industrial practice to healthcare facilities

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ABSTRACT

The history of the chemical industry has been marked by several accidents, resulting in severe loss of human life, environmental and financial damage. Society and government began to demand that industries invest in technologies that would prevent new tragedies. However, it soon became clear that accidents were not only linked to the technology employed, but also to human error. Understanding human behavior has come to be valued. Although industries were safer, accidents continued to occur, now due to management failures. The creation of a management system was necessary. Nowadays, safety management systems are present in sectors as disparate as the chemical industry, mining and civil aviation, with effective safety improvements. Similar benefits could be obtained in health facilities. A management system as employed by the chemical industry can be divided into four camps: "commitment to safety", "hazard and risk identification", "risk management" and "learning from experience". The first seeks to promote commitment and a culture of safety, as well as to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and standards. The management system only complements the national legal and regulatory framework. The identification of accidental scenarios, hazards and existing risks is the focus of the second field. The third field deals with the operationalization of the management system in the day-to-day of the organization, whether through procedures, contractor management, change management, etc. Finally, the last field measures the evolution of safety and promotes the investigation of incidents and accidents. Management systems are tools that can be adapted to the needs of each sector. When properly implemented, they generate significant organizational benefits, reducing operational risk.

Keywords: Safety management system, Risk management, Operational safety, Accidental scenarios.

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