BUSINESS CHALLENGE

The trend for regulators and multi-national oil companies to move from prescriptive forms of safety regulation to goal-setting approaches is resulting in changes in the way that operators manage their facilities. Under these new approaches the operators themselves now define the performance standards that facilities must achieve within an overall legislative framework.

The approach requires owners / operators (duty holders) to identify Safety Critical Elements (SCE) and Performance Standards (PS). They must then operate and maintain each facility ensuring that the desired standards of performance are achieved throughout its entire lifetime from design to decommissioning.

SOLUTION

What is Independent Verification?

Under a goal-setting approach to asset integrity, verification involves independent and competent scrutiny of safety critical elements throughout the lifecycle of the installation or facility. Following a written scheme, the verification process examines a facility’s safety critical equipment and the associated operator programmes of inspection and maintenance and assures that performance standards are achieved and maintained.

What are the key benefits?

The independent verification activity provides confidence to the operator and the regulator in the suitability of risk management measures. It also confirms that the operator’s arrangements for operation and maintenance are delivering the level of performance as defined by the performance standards.

WHY CHOOSE BUREAU VERITAS?

Bureau Veritas is an industry leader in the development, delivery and maintenance of verification schemes (written schemes) through all phases of facility lifecycle:

- design of new facilities;
- operation and modification;
- decommissioning.

Our sample-based approach allows efficient coverage of the safety critical elements while retaining focusing on the most important items.

Bureau Veritas also offers BVnet – a web-based solution for workflow management, document storage, reporting, management of findings, and production of statistics. This powerful management tool enables a live view of the status of verification activities – inspections, witnessing and review activities. The tool is customizable to meet contract needs.

RELATED SERVICES

- Design Review
- Information Management – BVnet
- Safety audit
- Safety Critical Elements & Performance Standards development
OUR APPROACH

Bureau Veritas works with operators to establish the suitability of safety critical elements and performance standards. We then collaborate to develop the verification scheme which establishes a system of independent and competent scrutiny of safety-critical elements throughout the life cycle of an installation. This written scheme then drives the verification activities.

The actual verification is executed through a sampling process, including examination of facilities, review of maintenance and inspection records, and witnessing of tests on safety critical systems.

FAQ

Can you help to identify the SCE and write suitable Performance Standards (PS)?
Yes, although the operators always retain ownership and responsibility for the SCE and PS. We provide consultancy services to help operators define appropriate standards of performance for the safety critical elements, but we also ensure that the verification activities are entirely separate from any consultancy services. The verification activity must be truly independent.

Will I receive a certificate after verification?
Verification is a sampling process so it does not normally lead to the issue of a certificate. Instead Bureau Veritas provides reports on the status of the verification scheme detailing any anomalies or nonconformities. This report highlights areas for improvement.

FOR MORE INFORMATION please visit:

■ www.bureauveritas.com

CONTACT

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CASE STUDY

Independent Verification Body (IVB) for Shell Exploration & Production

Bureau Veritas provides Independent Verification services for Shell offshore asset grouping, covering some 42 offshore assets and 4 onshore assets. A team of 15 - 20 verification engineers is responsible for the operational independent verification. The core work involves verification of the assets during design, operational and de-commissioning phases. The purpose of this independent verification activity is to satisfy the UK legal requirements to have an Independent Competent Person verify the suitability of the installations Safety Critical Elements [SCE’s] thus providing confidence to the operator and the regulator in the suitability of risk management measures. Verification at the design stage investigates the initial suitability of performance standards, while verification during operations tests the continuing suitability of Shell’s SCE’s against the performance standards through the assurance processes for inspection and maintenance. Verification status is reported using BVNet. This quick and transparent reporting tool provides excellent visibility of the issues raised and a full auditable trail to closure helping Shell to manage their risks.