

Experiences with SPIs

Niels Vangeel
Belgian Seveso inspection services

Your inspection experience*

- Does your authority mandate the use of process safety performance indicators for your Seveso establishments?
 - The use of SPI's as such is not mandatory in Belgium
 - However 'keeping track' and periodic supervision of the major-accident prevention policy by the management is one of the elements in our inspection instruments
 - Active reporting system towards the management on planned activities of the SMS
 - Obvious use of SPI's for bigger companies but other means of record-keeping are possible
- If not, do you know if any of your sites have Safety Performance Indicators (SPI)?
 - *Yes, multiple sites*
- Do you consider SPIs in the inspection if they have them? If yes, how do you consider them, e.g., for dialogue, as evidence (evidence of what?), etc.
 - During some inspections, SPI's (if used) are discussed to verify if they are used to monitor and improve safety performance or safety management systems
 - SPI's are not used as direct 'evidence' of shortcomings/deficiencies or dysfunctional SMS as that would encourage manipulation

What sites should use SPIs?

Do you think SPIs are useful for sites? Are they useful for the Seveso inspection?

- Yes, especially for bigger Seveso establishments useful as general picture to monitor the performance of different elements of the safety management system
- SPI's as incentive or guidance to choose themes for 'in depth' inspections
- Systematic request of SPI's is not an alternative for on-site inspections (no self-inspection)
- In case of repressive measures, qualitative findings or observations are necessary

In your opinion are there sites which are not currently using SPIs which could benefit from their use?

- Probably yes, bigger Seveso establishments

Good and bad practices

From your observations on sites using SPIs:

- Give an example of a good practice
 - Monthly 'maintenance' KPI : planned or overdue inspections
 - SPI for executing and periodic review of PHA and open actions related to PHA's
 - Discard redundant SPI (ex. if always 100% emergency planning exercise's due to professional firefighting team)
- Give an example of a bad practice
 - Only looking at numbers, not the underlying problems
 - Obtaining target or figures (%) : risk of overlooking the same equipment or over due inspections
 - During inspections: focusing primarily on SPI while the SMS itself not fully developed