

## **Process Safety Competency**

S. Schmid

ExxonMobil Production Deutschland GmbH, Hannover, Germany

A key component of managing higher consequence process safety risk is the application of Scenario Management. At ExxonMobil Corporation this includes the identification and proactive management of major hazards, the associated scenarios that might lead to an event, and the safeguards that prevent or mitigate the consequence of this event. Equally vital to managing process safety is competency, both for team members and supervisors.

To ensure full understanding of the relevant Scenario Management aspects, ExxonMobil Corporation is now making competency demonstration a requirement for operations supervisors. Leaders need to demonstrate process safety competency for their role at the beginning of their assignments. These demonstrations will focus on ten key areas. For each of those focus areas, essential process safety competency expectations have been defined and include items such as:

- Understanding the process and the hazards associated with deviating from an operating procedure
- Knowing the appropriate considerations when approving Management of Change

Team members in key Operations and Maintenance positions are required to continually demonstrate their knowledge of process safety hazards, scenarios and safeguards, and their role in preventing and mitigating process safety events. Verification of this knowledge is periodically reinforced through training, drills, interviews, and demonstrations. This approach is referred to as "Process Safety Knowledge Verification" (PSKV) and includes several components. Utilizing PSKV ensures team members understand high consequence process safety scenarios for their specific areas of responsibilities and how their specific actions act as a safeguard to prevent or mitigate the process safety scenario.