Safety Culture

What does Safety Culture mean?

Safety Culture is that assembly of characteristics and attitudes in organizations and individuals which establishes that, *as an* overriding priority, nuclear plant safety issues receive the attention warranted by their significance.

Are suppliers concerned by Safety Culture?

The organizations operating nuclear plants, and all other organizations with a responsibility for safety (including suppliers), must develop a Safety Culture to prevent human error and benefit from the positive aspects of human action. **The safety of the plant is also highly dependent on those who designed, built and commissioned it in the past.**

All these organizations, which include those responsible for design, manufacture, construction and *research,* greatly influence the safety of nuclear plants. They *are* primarily responsible for the **quality of the product,** be it a design or a manufactured component, installed equipment, a safety report or software development, or any other safety-related item.

The **Safety Culture** in any organization is based on the directive laying down the **policy and practices to be observed to achieve quality,** and thereby to meet the safety objectives of the future operator.

What does attention to safety involve?

In all types of activities, **for organizations and individuals at all levels, attention to safety involves** many elements:

- *Individual awareness* of the importance of safety, including *a questioning attitude, a rigorous and prudent approach and communication.*
  - *Knowledge and competence,* conferred by training and instructors and by self-teach ing.
- *Commitment,* requiring demonstration at senior management level of the high priority given to safety and adoption by individuals of the common safety goal.
- *Motivation,* through leadership, the setting of objectives and systems of rewards and sanctions, and through the self-generated attitudes of individuals.
- *Supervision,* including audit and review practices, with a readiness to respond to the questioning attitudes of individuals.
- *Responsibility,* through formal assignment and description of duties and their understanding by individuals.

Good practices, while *an* essential component of Safety Culture, *are* not in themselves sufficient if applied without thinking. It is essential to go beyond the strict implementation of good practices so that all safety-related tasks *are* carried out correctly, with alertness, due thought and full knowledge, sound judgement and a proper *sense* of accountability.

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Nuclear Safety by appropriate interaction between individuals and organizations

What does “Safety Culture” Status: 07/2007

- Safety Culture is that **assembly of characteristics and attitudes** in organizations and individuals which establishes that, as an overriding priority, nuclear power plant safety issues receive the attention warranted by their significance.
- Safety Culture is characterized by everyone acting in a way which is **safety oriented** and **with awareness of their own responsibility** according to their own abilities, existing tools and competencies, as well as by the formation of an environment which is conducive to this objective.

Ref: IAEA-Safety Series No.75-INSAG-4 and INSAG-15; KTA GS 77 BR 7

The Quality Management System supports a good Safety Culture by:

- Quality -Manual, -Procedures, -Policy, Audits
- Process Descriptions
- Risk Assessment
- Design Reviews
- Verification & Validation (Design, Development, Product)
- Training / Qualification
- Management Reviews
- Supplier Assessment

Personal contributions to Safety Culture:

- Commitment to safety and Safety Culture is needed
- All applicable procedures shall be used
- Conservative decisions shall be taken (STAR principle: STOP-THINK-ACT-REVIEW)
- Near misses and failures shall be reported
- All unsafe factors and conditions shall be identified
- Safety and quality shall be improved continuously
- Responsibilities and interfaces shall be known

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