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**Risk Analysis**

In the UK, foot and mouth outbreaks continue to make the front page and seem to be linked to poor bio-security at a Government laboratory.

This is only one type of catastrophic incident; all industries need to assess their risks and there are a variety of risk analysis techniques available that the Quality Manager should be familiar with. Typically, the aims of risk analysis are to identify the potential risks, quantify and then determine an appropriate course of action to eliminate or mitigate the effects of the risk.

*Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points (HACCP)*

Hazard analysis like the other analysis techniques is a preventive approach aimed at avoiding problems. One major problem of this analysis is that no account is taken of the likelihood of occurrence, the seriousness of the failure, and the likelihood of detection. The technique is often used to identify any possible health or safety problems with the product and its method of development, production and delivery.

*HAZard and OPerability study (HAZOP)*

This technique tends to be applicable to the operation of facilities and plant, detailing the controls necessary to ensure the continued safe operation of the facilities. The aim is to identify all deviations from the objectives of the facility or plant, which will have undesirable effects on

safety or operability. One problem with this (HAZOP) approach is that it tends to concentrate on the plant and facilities and not the process or the product

*Failure Mode and Effects (and Critically) Analysis (FMEA or FMECA)*

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) is a logical technique used to identify and eliminate possible causes of failure. The technique requires a sequential, disciplined approach by engineers to assess systems, products or processes in order to establish the modes of failure and the effects of failure on the system, product or process.

*Fault Tree Analysis*

Fault Tree Analysis (FTA) is a powerful, widely-recognised method for determining system reliability and possible risks. It is a logical technique for analysing and deducing the various combinations of hardware and software failures and human errors that could result in the occurrence of specified undesired events (usually referred to as the top event) at the system level. The deductive analysis begins with the top event, then attempts to determine the specific causes of this top event. The main objective of FTA is to determine the probability of this top event. Focussing on and refining the results of the FTA can be used to minimise risk and improve system safety and reliability.



## **National Grant to encourage Adult Learning**

A new fund has recently been announced by the UK Government aimed at helping adults to gain new skills. The Adult Learning Grant will give eligible adults up to £30 a week to help improve their skills and progress. Skills Secretary John Dedman has said, "We don't want financial pressures to prevent people gaining the qualifications they need for work. Pilots have shown that the grant opens up opportunities for low, skilled, low-income adults to gain new skills and qualifications, which will improve their employment prospects. In some colleges 100% of learners receiving ALG have completed their courses.

For further information, please visit the dedicated web-site [www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands](http://www.lsc.gov.uk/inourhands)

## **Patent Highway**

A pilot scheme was recently launched that is aimed at speeding up patent applications in the UK and the USA. This will allow patent applicants who have received an examination report by either the UK Intellectual Property Office or the United States patent and Trademark Office to request accelerated examination of a correspondent patent filed in the other country. This followed an earlier agreement with the Japan Patent Office. Ian Fletcher, Chief Executive of the UK Intellectual Property Office said, "The UK Intellectual Property Office has high standards in efficiency and quality as reflected in our ISO9001:2000 accreditation. The Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) agreement with the US Patent and Trademark Office will make a contribution to raising these standards further. I am especially pleased that the improved efficiency and quality expected to arise from the PPH agreement is a direct results of the strong relations that exist between the UK Intellectual Property Office and the US Patent and Trademark Office.

For further information, please visit [www.ipo.gov.uk](http://www.ipo.gov.uk)

## **Changes to Trade Mark Legislation**

On October 1, changes to trade mark examination and opposition process were introduced. Rob Webb, Director of Trade Marks said, "These changes affect every trade mark applicant and holder, and the UK Intellectual Property Office is keen to ensure that as many of our customers are made aware of the changes in our procedures". The Information about the changes to the examination process on relative grounds is available on the Office web page. [www.ipo.gov.uk/tm/t-decisionmaking/t-law/t-law-notice/t-law-notice-relativegrounds](http://www.ipo.gov.uk/tm/t-decisionmaking/t-law/t-law-notice/t-law-notice-relativegrounds)

## **New version of ISSN**

The International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) has been revised and the new version is based on the international standard ISO 3297:2007. ISSN means that any serial publication, including electronic serials can be identified. The identification is independent of its country of publication, of its language or alphabet, of its frequency, medium etc. and is applicable to serials and to other continuing resources, whether past, present or to be published or produced in the foreseeable future, whatever the medium of publication or production.

The ISSN number is an eight-digit number assigned to a serial publication and registered in an international database: the ISSN Register. Françoise Pelle, Director of ISSN International Centre, said, "In recognition of the increasing need in the digital environment to collocate as well as differentiate media versions, a new category of resources, "continuing resources" was defined to encompass new kinds of resources, such as updating websites, as well as traditional serials. This notion has been introduced in the scope of the ISO 3297:2007, and a new functionality, the "linking ISSN" (ISSN-L) has been defined for the purpose of supporting services that offer search and delivery functionality across all media versions" ISO 3297:2007, Information and documentation – International standard serial number (ISSN) is

## QM&T September 2007 Newsletter

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available for national member institutes, and for further information please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### Safety of Machinery Standard

A new standard – ISO 14121-1:2007, Safety of machinery – Risk Assessment – Part 1: Principles has been released and it should help designers and manufacturers reduce associated safety hazards. The risk assessment guidelines in the standard are given as a series of steps that should help designers to determine the limits of the machinery; identify risks of hazards like radiation, burning or electrocution; and estimate potential dangers ranging from machine failure to human error. ISO 14121 – 2 is currently being developed and it will cover Risk Assessment – Practical Guidance and examples of methods. For further information, please visit [www.iso.ch](http://www.iso.ch)

### Occupational Health and Safety – revised standard

BS OHSSAS 18001:2007 Occupational Health and Safety Management Systems requirements has been revised and the changes may affect your business. According to BSI, the key changes between the 1999 and the 2007 standard are:

- The importance of "health" has now been given greater emphasis.
- OHSAS 18001 now refers to itself as a standard, not a specification, or document, as in the earlier edition. This reflects the increasing adoption of OHSAS 18001 as the basis for national standards on occupational health and safety management systems.
- The "Plan-Do-Check-Act" model diagram is only given in the Introduction, in its entirety, and not also as sectional diagrams at the start of each major clause.
- Reference publications in Clause 2 have been limited to purely international documents.
- New definitions have been added, and existing definitions revised.

- Significant improvement in alignment with ISO 14001:2004 throughout the standard; and improved compatibility with ISO 9001:2000.
- A new requirement has been introduced for the consideration of the hierarchy of controls as part of OH&S planning
- Management of change is now more explicitly addressed
- A new clause on the "Evaluation of compliance" has been introduced, as per ISO 14001:2004
- New requirements have been introduced for participation and consultation
- New requirements have been introduced for the investigation of incident

For further information, please contact your Health and Safety Advisor.

### New Food Safety Standard

A new standard ISO7218:2007, Microbiology of food and animal feeding stuffs – general requirements and guidance for microbiological examinations has been released. It aims to help ensure the validity of food microbiological examinations and help to achieve homogeneous results in different laboratories.

For more information, please visit [www.iso-ch](http://www.iso-ch)

### Strange but True

There are about 27,000 British Standards and some are more unusual than others. There is for instance a British Standard for Rugby Studs, something that the players competing in the Rugby World Cup may well be grateful for. BS 6366:1983 contains test procedures to assess the likelihood of a stud becoming damaged in such a way that it may cause injury to other players as well as containing requirements for shape and size.

And, whilst you drink your tea watching the match you might be grateful to know that there is a British Standard for tea – BS6049-9: 1999 Methods of test for tea. This was developed to ensure that tea tasters were comparing teas brewed in the same manner.