

**TOTAL PETROCHEMICALS**

# **Process Safety through Operational Management**

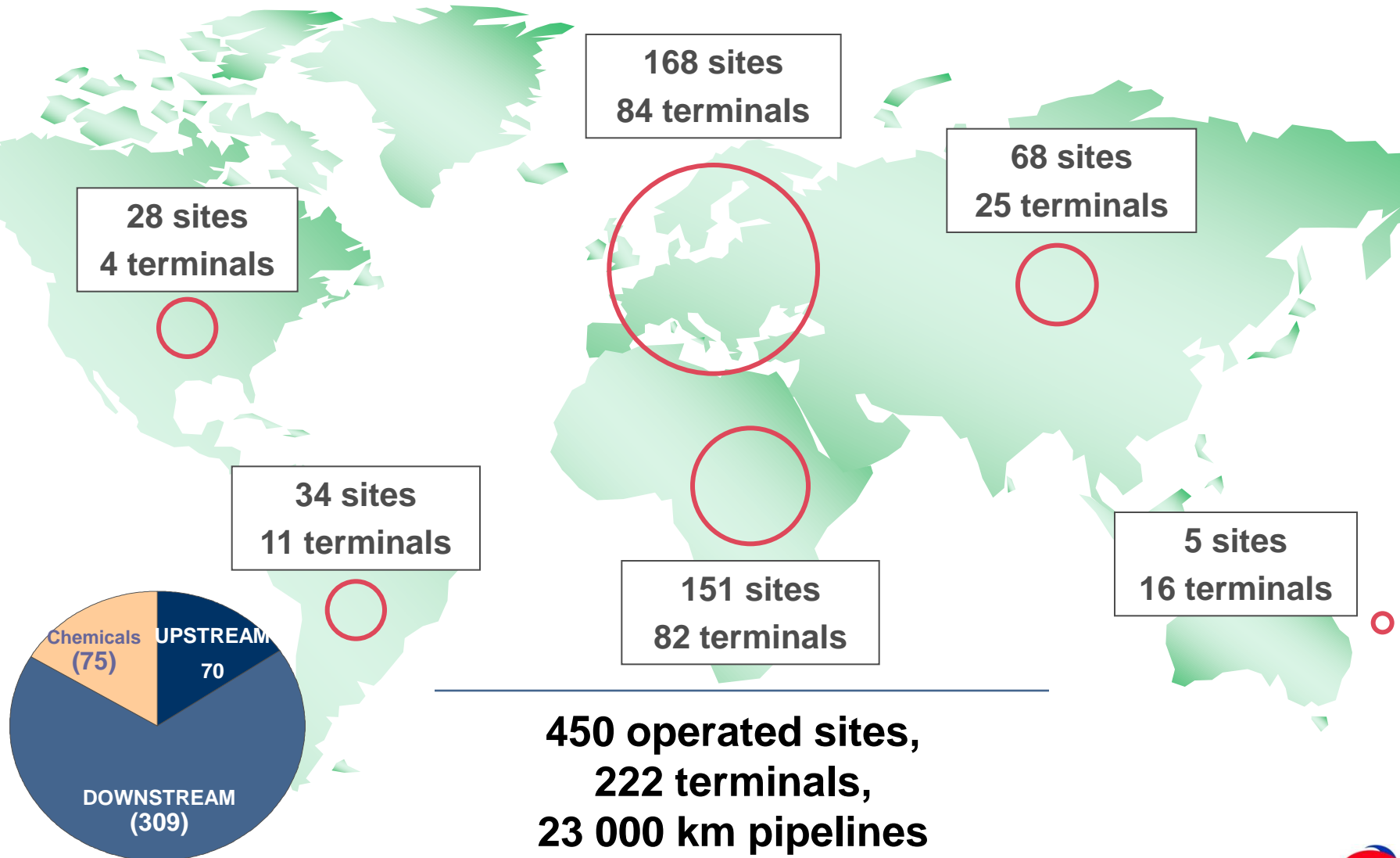
---

Herman.van-roost@total.com

8<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of Chemical Engineering, Berlin, September 29<sup>th</sup> , 2011



# TOTAL : hundreds of high risk installations worldwide



# For all : “Safety first” = also “survival first” ... (the duty of every business)



# Incident Investigation : huge effort at Total

- ▶ All new incidents have already happened before...
- ▶ Central effort to extract the full learning potential of every incident : “REX” = “Return of EXperience” from sites are challenged, translated and distributed to all sites.
- ▶ Opportunity for the involved site to transform their problem into something positive for Total Petrochemicals.
- ▶ Strong focus on High Potential (HIPO’s) : often Process Safety

**But how effective are we ?**

# Why didn't we see these coming ?

LPG derailment by push & pull without break connection between 2 locomotives



Unadapted tractor for heavy load on unbroken wagon, almost damage to hydrocarbon pipes



Collapse of new storm basin during first test, damage to hydrogen line with leak

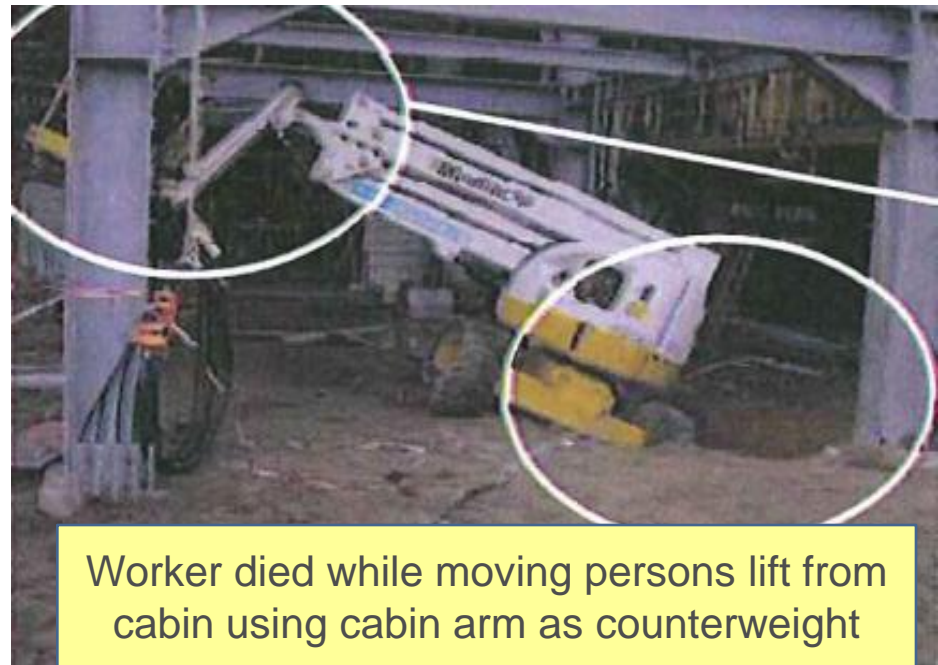


# Why wasn't this prevented ?

5 ton benzene spill by rupture of bellow after visual misalignment (15mm)



Crane without support shoe on unstable ground : disaster just avoided



Worker died while moving persons lift from cabin using cabin arm as counterweight

# Do we continue mastering the basics of our profession ?

500 kg propylene cloud during 1 hour after contractor removed valve on reactor body under pressure



2 operators died and 6 got burnt by explosion of superheater during startup



2 workers wounded by explosion of sulphuric acid tank in which hydrogen had formed by adding water

# Common findings

as produced by actual Incident Investigation system

## Root causes for human error :

Lack of Competency

Procedure not followed

Procedure incomplete

## Which people ?

Contractors

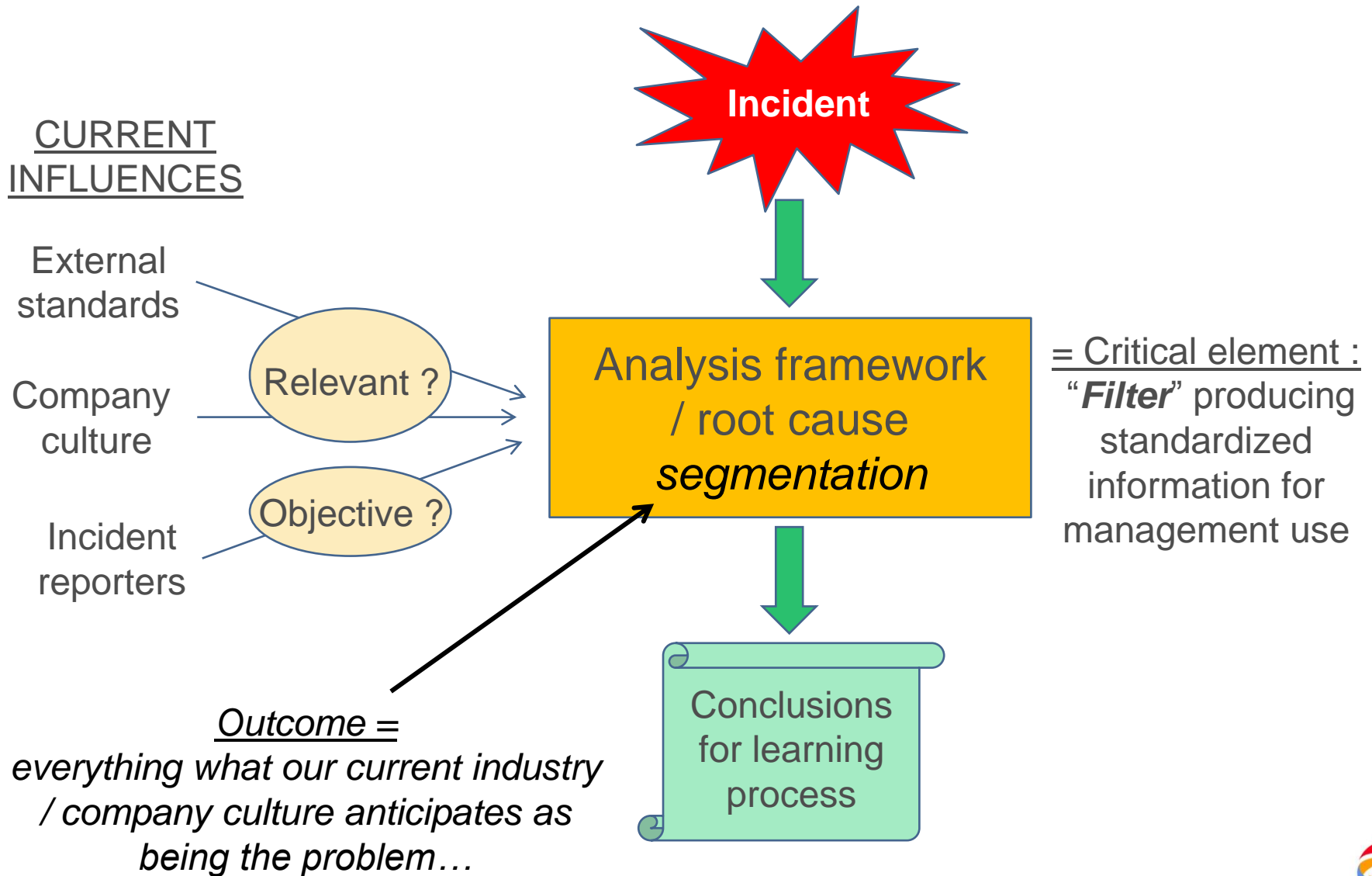
Maintenance technicians

Operators

...



# Could we be misled by our Incident Investigation?



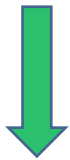
***Abnormal situation Management Consortium's* detailed 2008 survey on public and shared member incidents revealed a key insight :**

## ***ASM Key Message***

- Current incident reporting approaches do **NOT effectively capture the influence of human reliability** on process safety or abnormal situation management performance

# ASM Consortium “deep dive” on communication and coordination failures

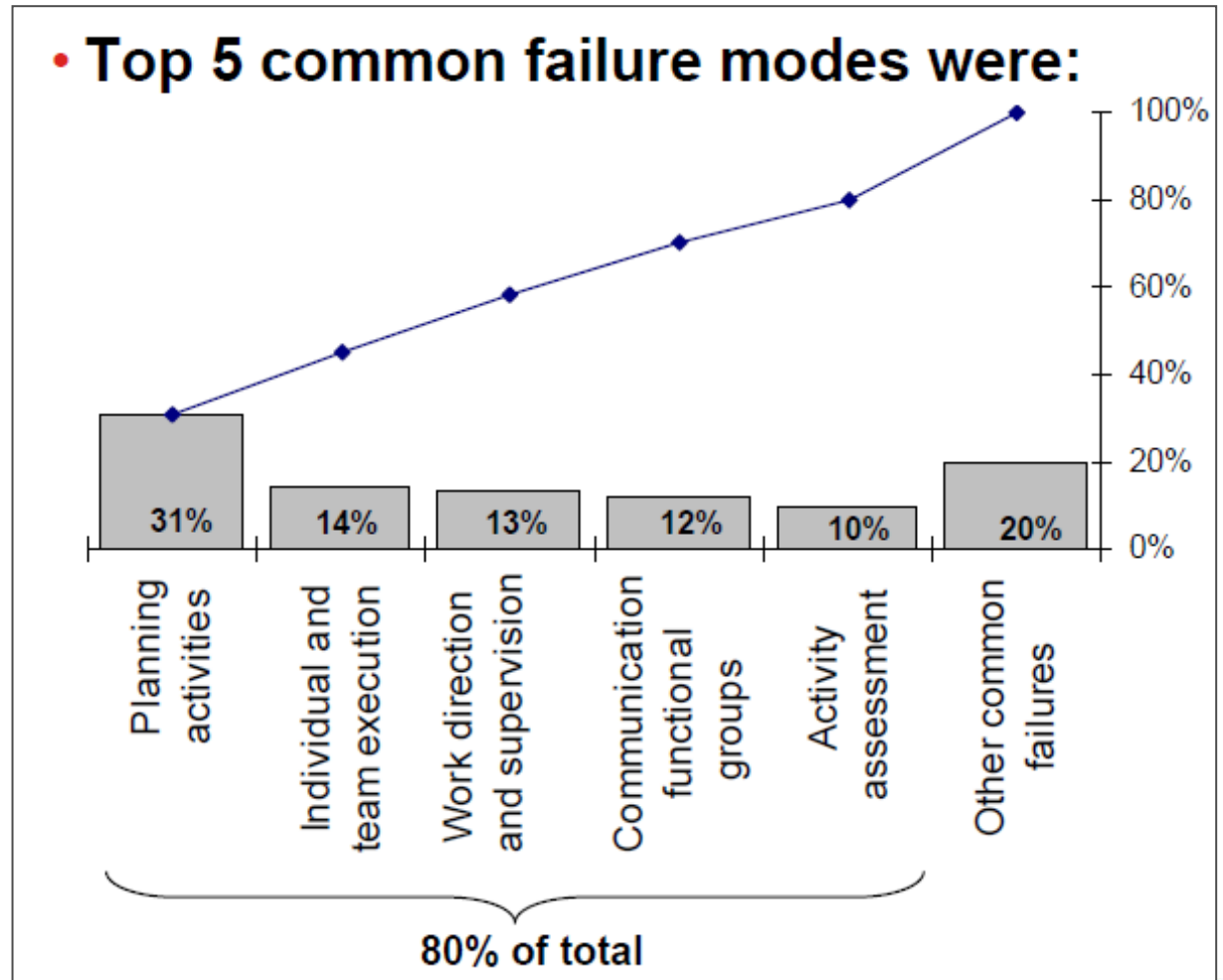
14 selected incidents



207 failures

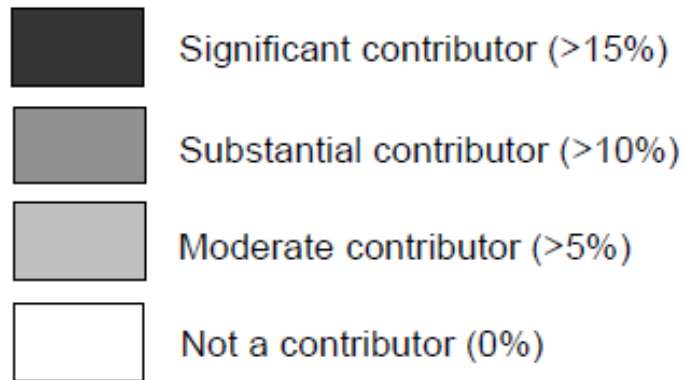


80% = 5 failure modes



# “Deep dive” insight

- Common root causes show why failures occurred across incidents



Root Cause	Combined for Top 5	Planning activities	Individual and team execution	Work direction and supervision	Communication between functional groups	Activity assessment
	%	%	%	%	%	%
No SPAC	12.2%	20.4%	8.6%	7.8%		15.2%
Crew teamwork needs improvement	11.1%	7.4%	15.5%	17.6%	6.5%	12.1%
SPAC not followed	8.8%	7.4%	19.0%	7.8%		9.1%
No communication	8.4%	6.5%		5.9%	32.6%	
No supervision	7.4%		12.1%	19.6%		15.2%

SPAC – Standards, Policies, Administrative Controls

Who is in charge of this ?

# Incident Investigation Paradox

1.

- Up to 80% of all incidents are related to human error
- Up to 80% of all human error is related to organizational matters

2.

- Up to 80% of all incidents are related to worker's behavior
- Worker's behavior is overwhelmingly influenced by their management

► So :

- *Why are organizational / managerial matters not the primary criterion of the incident investigation ?*

# Management emphasis on Human Error approach in the Aviation Industry

**Managerial  
defence  
barriers**

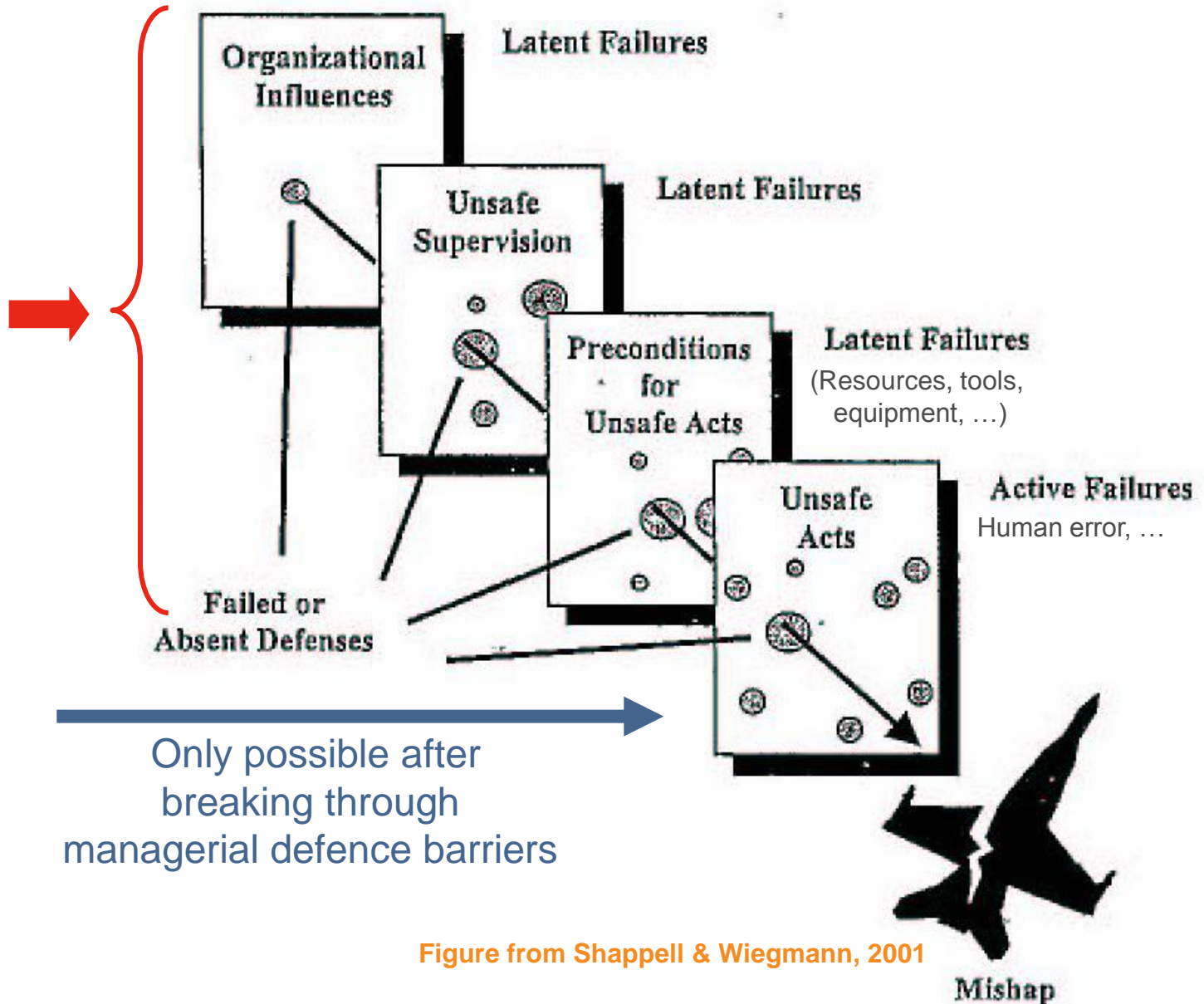


Figure from Shappell & Wiegmann, 2001

# The Operational Management as Defense Barrier

## ► High level mission :

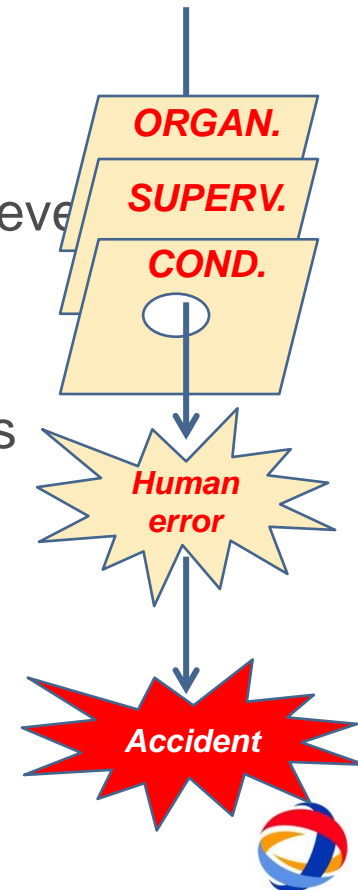
- *Conduct the operations at a high standard of excellence (total safety and effectiveness)*

## ► All accidents can be prevented by ensuring

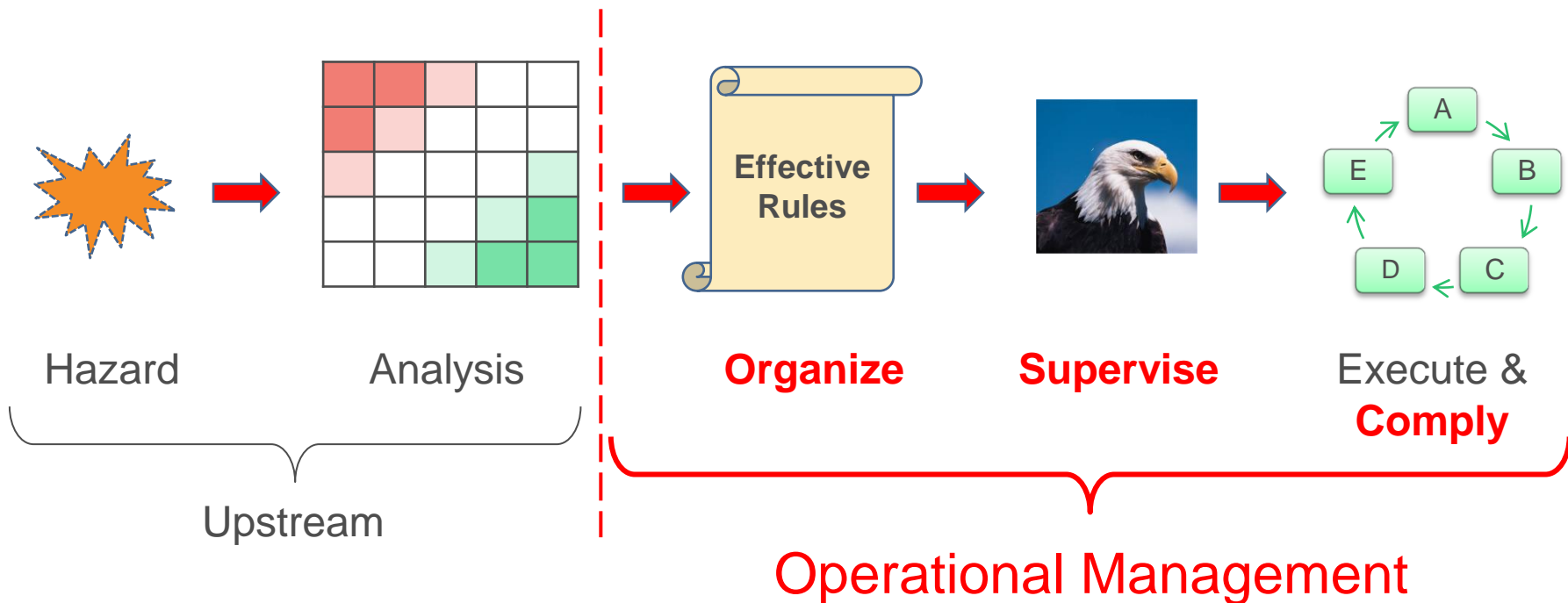
- That every hazard is identified
- That effective organizations (rules) are in place against every hazard
- That the rules are effectively implemented
- That all conditions are adapted to the work requirements

► Also human error ...?            YES

► How about risk and probability considerations ?

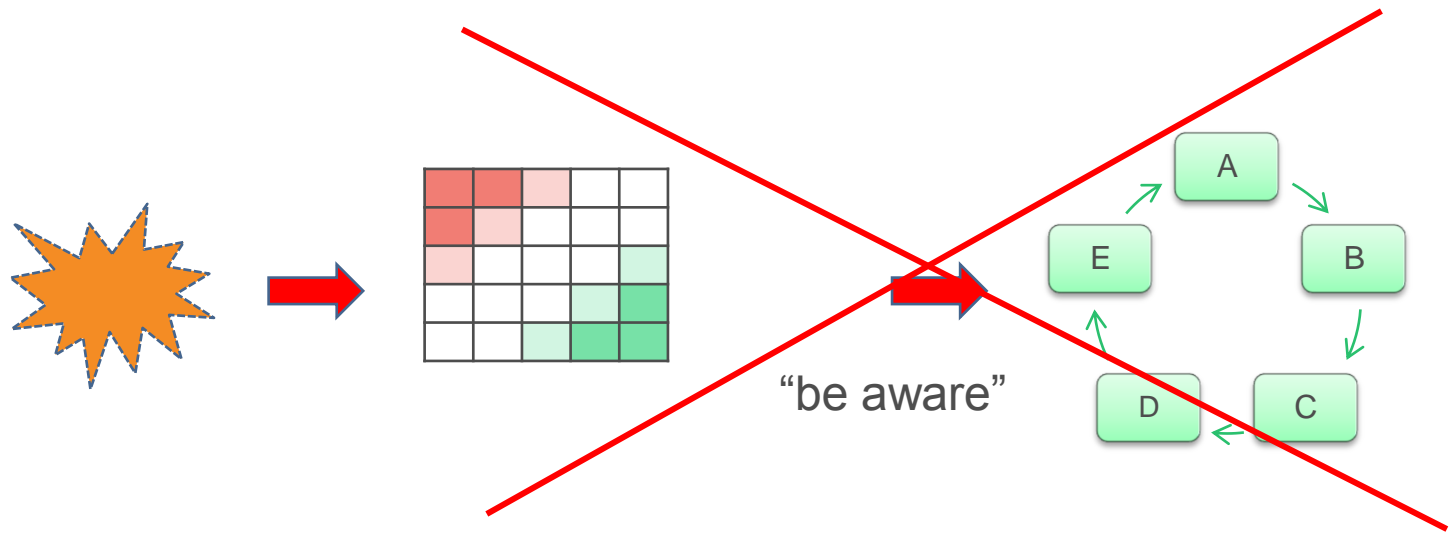


# Message : Operational Management = *Rule Based* !





# Without good rules and compliance : “stuck in the matrix”

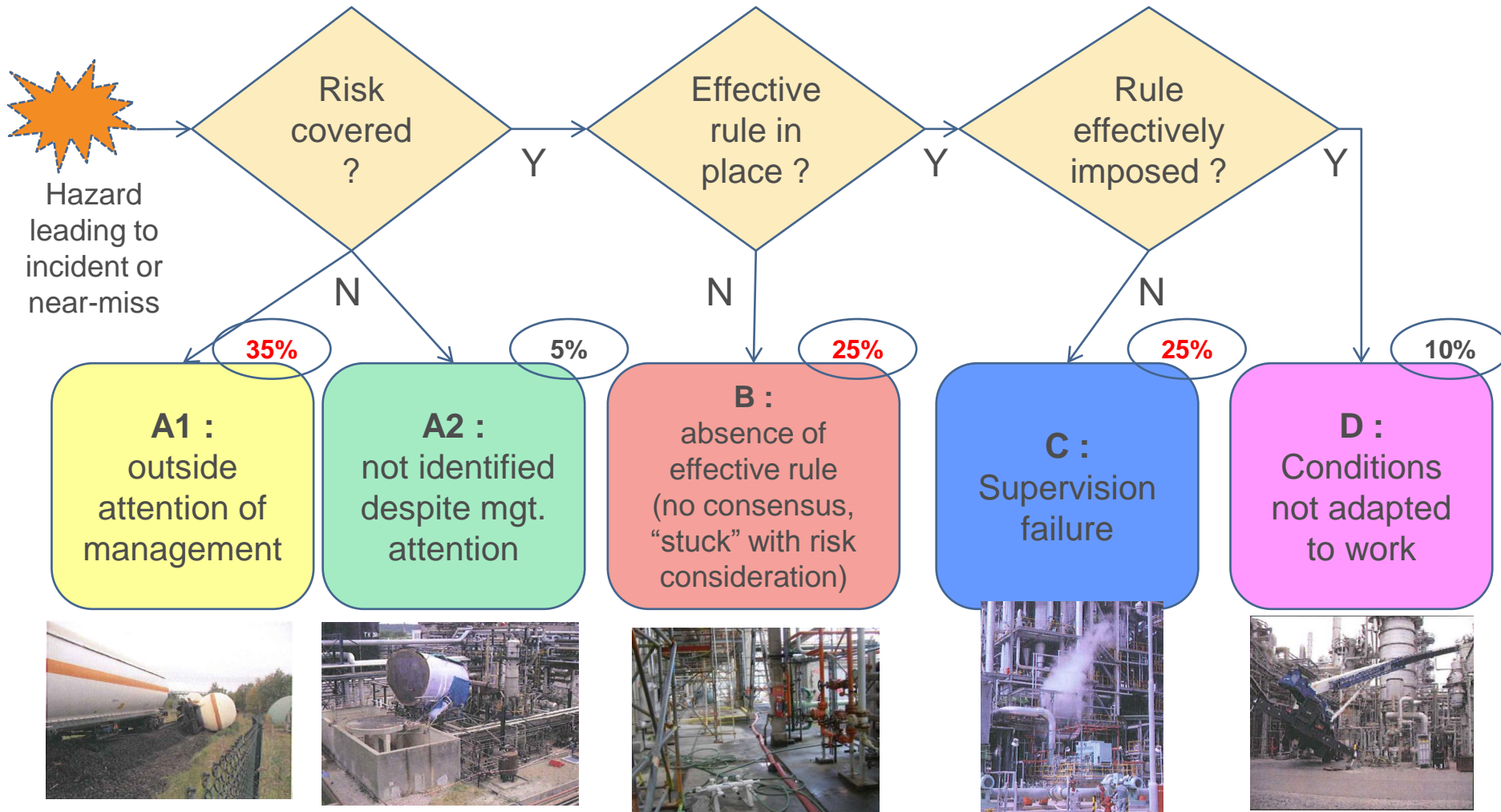


17

Operational decisions require guidance with rules, not just *risk considerations and awareness*

- *Should I wear a hard hat on a production site, to reduce the risk of being injured by falling objects, or not?*
- *Is it too hot to work in the normal way, or not?*
- *Am I too fatigued to fly this aircraft, or not?*
- *Should I stop a process now because of the risks involved, or not?*

# Effectiveness of Managerial Defense Barriers as *relevant segmentation* for incident investigation



Advantage : categories identify clearly the corrective action to be taken, by the resource which has the single most direct impact : the operational management

# Observed recent tendencies undermining the excellence of the *human manager*

## ► Effect of outsourcing and lump sum contracting

- Considered “not core” for the company : human (managerial) reaction = focus on other aspects which have hierarchy attention
- Contractual result = prescribed : human reaction “not my problem any more” (mgt. failure cat. A1)
- After a while : “we are not competent for this, we have no professional experience”

## ► Risk and probability considerations in operations :

- Message to the young manager = whatever you do, these (the matrix) are the probabilities that incidents happen in your area ... and everyone knows it and agrees
- Degradation of good rules by “add-on” in order to move at lower risk position in matrix
- Human reaction : “ despite the  $10^{-4}$  it happened in my duty : just bad luck”

## ► Audits focused on administrative ‘management *systems*’

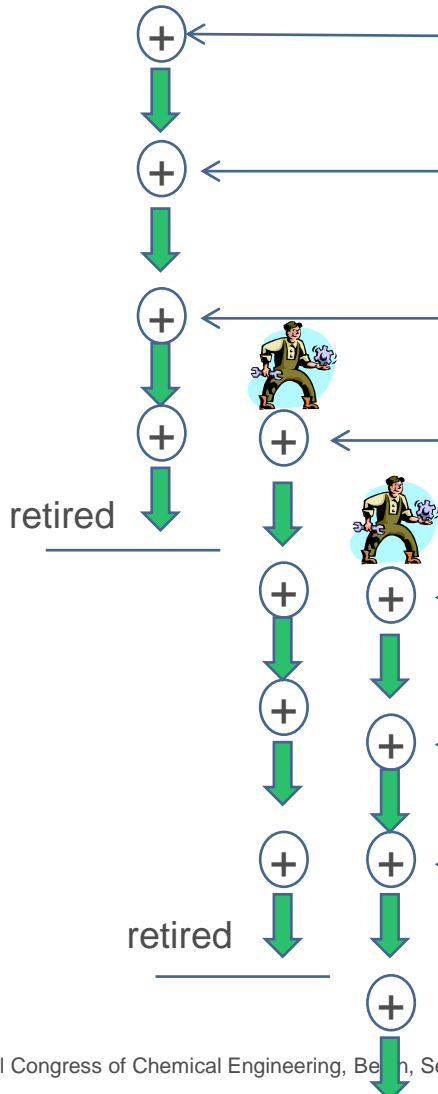
- Instead of detecting field weakness to trace underlying management problem
- General score system leading to “congratulations” may stop the learning and reduce the essential “sense of vulnerability”

# Organisation's competency evolution

1950...  
1980



hired



New concept

New concept

New concept

New concept

New concept

New concept

**Training :**  
Fundamental  
Organizational  
Principles  
for Process  
Industry  
+  
"Murphy !"

Mtce vs. prod. perimeter  
Permit vs. execution  
Signature commitment  
Single line of command  
Written instructions  
TAG numbering  
Nothing w/o work order  
Supervision  
Perimeter of accountability  
...

Detailed procedures  
Continuous learning  
Contractors  
Risk matrix  
SMS  
Bow-tie  
BBS  
Safety culture  
Human Factors  
...

2000...  
2010

**Fundamental  
organizational  
principles ? Never  
heard about them**



# What are “good rules” for the Process Industry ?

- ▶ Simple to understand
- ▶ Universally applicable
- ▶ Focused on avoiding human error : *Organizational Layers of Protection*
- ▶ Not necessarily the most efficient way to do things, but their universal application generates *overall predictability of the complex reality and overall efficiency*
  - Cfr. Airplane landing
- ▶ Specifically reinforcing Process Safety (the heart of our profession)
  
- ▶ “Organizational layers of protection” : not just any rule, but part of a “constitution for the process industry” to which all procedures, organizations and work methods should comply

# Conclusions

- ▶ **Operational managers are HUMANS too !**
  - Not immune to human errors
  - Subject to Human Factors
  - Needing guidance and clear expectations framework to perform well
- ▶ **Their impact is huge : probably most important improvement tool**
  - Much more direct than “show commitment”
  - Should not be placed in the role of “observers of their department”
- ▶ **Operational Management performance vs. high expectation standard should be part of any Incident Investigation**
- ▶ **Modern concepts like BBS, risk matrix etc.  
do NOT replace good organization and RULES  
but come on top of it...**

# Attachment

## *Organizational FUNDAMENTALS For the Process Industry*

# 1. Leadership, organisation and accountability

- ▶ **Strict role separation : Operations vs. Maintenance / Construction**
  - Each has its own accountability perimeter and demonstrates “ownership behaviour”
  - Formal interaction and hand-over between all perimeters
  - Each equipment is, at any moment, either in Operations or in Maintenance / Construction perimeter
  
- ▶ **Operations = overall coordinator**
  - Strong « ownership » behaviour required, both day and shift organisation
  - Keeps overall view on perimeters (which equipment or zone is « owned » by whom), their coherence and compatibility with evolving process or operations status
  - Access and occupancy control on operations perimeter
  - Requires to be informed of any event with potential impact on the process even without being the initiator (e.g. electrical operations or tests, ...)
  
- ▶ **Clear line of command within each accountability perimeter**
  - No confusion who gives which orders
  - No contradictions
  - Domino system towards plant / site manager
  - Contractors : report / belong to 1 single functional accountability perimeter



TOTAL



# 2. Safe work procedures and work permits

- ▶ **Single set of coherent procedures and instructions**
  
- ▶ **All non-routine work (°) is based on safe work procedure and permit**
  - “Permit” = second person implication + analysis + prevention + personal authorisation
    - Signed paper = 1) necessary “gate to work” and 2) for traceability, to support process quality
  - Single scope and planning definition ; change requires new permit
  - Authorisation : independent from work execution ; proper level
  
- ▶ **“Special Works” requiring special permit**
  - Installation not de-energised
  - Hot work – confined space entry – roof access – elevated work – line opening
  - Hot tapping – excavations – vehicles in process areas – use of heavy construction equipment
  - Fire system impairment – relief valve isolation – interlock bypassing – electrical test / switch / maintenance potentially causing interruption
  - Use of ionizing radiation (effect on instruments)
  
- ▶ **Standard process in place to authorize any deviation from existing procedure**
  - Objective to realise equivalent safety level
  - Incl. procedure review and start of change process, *prior to deviation*

(°) including « 1st line maintenance » (small works by operators)



TOTAL

# 3. Safe work practices

- ▶ **All non-routine work (°) is formally initiated, approved and registered**
  - Mentioning equipment TAG nr.
  - Proper description of required work
  
- ▶ **Golden rule of first choice : installation de-energised**
  - “Visual physical separation” criterion
  - Complementary protective measures : first common, then personal
  - Written justification if “Golden Rule” not applied
  
- ▶ **“Special Works” require special coordination (operations - maintenance)**
  - Could be common supervision, standby, open communication line, hierarchy attention, ...
  - See list on previous page
  
- ▶ **Changes to the work plan require new authorisation**
  - Any relevant deviation from defined work description
    - equipment TAG – area – timing – method – resources ...
  
- ▶ **Individual signature = personal commitment**
  - In interaction between operations – electrical – maintenance – construction
  - Within each function’s accountability perimeter
  
- ▶ **Paperwork is complete before work execution**
  
- ▶ **Work execution follows strictly the permit prescriptions**
  - Both common and personal protection measures  
(°) including « 1st line maintenance » (small works by operators)



## 4. Proper plant and equipment status

- ▶ **Each equipment is in a well defined accountability perimeter**
  - Operations – Maintenance / Construction
  - Coherent with available paperwork
- ▶ **Accountability perimeters in the field are indicated and respected**
  - Working area indication
  - Energy status of equipment
- ▶ **Field equipment is properly TAG numbered**
  - Coherent with up-to-date plans and registers ; no confusion possible
- ▶ **Good housekeeping**
  - Clean and organised working areas
  - People and materials logistics
- ▶ **Proper lighting**



# 5. Proper operational communications

- ▶ **Proper shift transfer**
  - Each new shift is fully aware of the actual situation before it becomes “in charge” (and writes permits, initiates operations, ...)
  - Function per function
  
- ▶ **Proper coordination with operational day organisation**
  - Daily instructions are clear, followed and result reported back
  - Written instructions, written feedback
  - No confusion between orders and information
  
- ▶ **Effective communication between operators**
  - Oral : two-way communication
  - Briefing – debriefing
  
- ▶ **Permanent coherence between field and control room**
  - Registers, logbooks, ...
  - Proper and frequent operator tours
  - Effective inter-team (and inter-unit) communication
    - Two-way communication



TOTAL

# 6. Operations discipline and capability

- ▶ **Operations are conducted within formally defined safe operating limits**
  - Defined Process Operating Window : for all critical parameters
  - Process position is tracked and information is known
  
- ▶ **Complex operations are conducted with adapted formalism and preparation**
  - Formal initiation, operator assignment, status tracking, signing-off checklists
  - Verify initial “stable status” before start of procedural operation
  
- ▶ **Operations support tools are effectively used**
  - E.g. critical procedures are “at hand” during operation
  - Critical checklists are signed off after each step
  
- ▶ **Operators are aware of the field / process situation**
  - Information is correct, complete, “smart”, readily available and effectively used
  - Diagnoses are correct
  - Any recent changes are known, trained, documented
  
- ▶ **Operations are within the operation team’s capability**
  - Adequate resources are available
  - People are trained, concentrated, prepared, fit for duty (“permit to operate”)
  - Tools and environment are 100% adapted to the task, functioning and in good shape
  - Plant design and layout allows proper operability
  
- ▶ **Operator performance assurance**



TOTAL