

(Effective December 27, 2024)

WAC 296-67-375 Process safety culture assessment. (1) The employer must develop, implement and maintain an effective process safety culture assessment (PSCA) program.

(2) The employer must perform an effective PSCA and produce a written report within 18 months following the effective date of Part B of this chapter, and at least every five years thereafter. If the employer has performed and documented a PSCA up to 18 months prior to the effective date of Part B of this chapter, and that PSCA includes the elements required in this section, that PSCA may be used to satisfy the employer's obligation to complete an initial PSCA.

(3) The PSCA must be developed and implemented by a team that must include at least one member knowledgeable in refinery operations and at least one employee representative. The team must consult with at least one employee or other individual(s) with expertise in assessing process safety culture in the petroleum refining industry.

(4) The PSCA must, at a minimum, include an evaluation of the effectiveness of the following elements of process safety leadership:

(a) The employer's hazard reporting program;

(b) The employer's response to reports of hazards;

(c) The employer's procedures to ensure that incentive programs do not discourage reporting of hazards; and

(d) The employer's procedures to ensure that process safety is prioritized during upset or emergency conditions.

(5) The team must develop a written report within 90 calendar days of completion of the PSCA, which must include:

(a) The method(s) used to perform the PSCA;

(b) The findings and conclusions of the PSCA; and

(c) The team's recommendations to address the findings of the PSCA.

(6) The employer, in consultation with the PSCA team, must prioritize recommendations and implement corrective actions within 24 months of completion of the written report.

(7) The PSCA team must perform a written interim assessment of the implementation and effectiveness of each PSCA corrective action within three years following the completion of a PSCA report. If a corrective action is found to be ineffective, the employer must implement changes necessary to ensure effectiveness within, but not to exceed, six months.

(8) The refinery manager or designee must serve as signatory to all PSCA reports, corrective action plans and interim assessments.

(9) PSCA reports, corrective action plans and interim assessments must be communicated and made available to all affected employees, their representatives, and participating contractors within 60 calendar days of completion.

(10) Participating contractors must provide PSCA reports, corrective action plans, and interim assessments to their employees and employee representatives within 14 calendar days of receipt.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060, and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 24-02-037, § 296-67-375, filed 12/27/23, effective 12/27/24.]