



**ALTERNATIVE SAFETY APPROACHES
SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLANS
CLIENT EXEMPLAR PROCESS**

Expression of Interest for Selection as an Exemplar Candidate

Key Dates:

Date Issued:	July 1, 2011
Latest Expression of Interest Submission Date:	August 5, 2011 (extended)
Review of Submissions of Expressions of Interest:	August 15, 2011
Client Selection:	August 29, 2011

ALTERNATIVE SAFETY APPROACHES SAFETY MANAGEMENT PLANS CLIENT EXEMPLAR PROCESS

1.0 Overview

The Provincial Government of British Columbia has approved changes to the *Safety Standards Act*. The changes give owners and operators of equipment the opportunity to take alternative safety approaches to comply with the objectives of the Act. The options are:

1. An Equivalent Standard Approach (ESA) or
2. A Safety Management Plan (SMP).

In the summer of 2010 and early 2011, the BC Safety Authority consulted with business and industry stakeholders on this new option and to get their input on the development of new regulations for Alternative Safety Approaches (ASA). The new regulations came into effect on April 1, 2011, at which time the BC Safety Authority was ready to accept and review applications for Safety Management Plans from greenfield bioenergy companies with the intent to accept applications from all client sectors on January 1, 2012.

In early 2011 the BC Safety Authority issued an Expression of Interest to greenfield bioenergy sector clients to participate in an exemplar process on Safety Management Plans. The intent was to use this opportunity to gain experience on Alternative Safety Approaches with this market sector. Four clients responded; however, to date, none of the client projects are sufficiently developed to complete an exemplar exercise.

The BC Safety Authority is now placing a call out to clients in all sectors, who are considering an Alternative Safety Approach-Safety Management Plan option, to be an exemplar client. The greenfield bioenergy clients who previously applied would need to provide an update on their project status by the closing date of the expression of interest application to be considered for selection.

2.0 Exemplar process: What is involved

The BC Safety Authority has developed guidance material to help clients who wish to pursue an Alternative Safety Approach by submitting a Safety Management Plan—an approach that can be presented by a client to replace requirements formulated in regulations or adopted codes. The Safety Management Plan approach provides a client with high levels of flexibility on how to meet overall safety objectives.

An exemplar client would go through the full process of a Safety Management Plan Application submission, develop a complete Safety Management Plan and submit it for acceptance by the BC Safety Authority.

If their Safety Management Plan were to be accepted by the BC Safety Authority, the client would then be in a position to operate and maintain their facility consistent with the Safety

Management Plan. The client would obtain an exemption from the requirements of prescriptive regulations covered by the Safety Management Plan.

The BC Safety Authority would assign a liaison contact to the exemplar client. The liaison contact would routinely meet with the exemplar client and take the position of clarifying the BC Safety Authority's expectations, as detailed in the guidance material, and be receptive to feedback from the client on suggestions for change or improvement to the guidance material. The liaison contact would not take a position of telling the exemplar "how to do it".

3.0 Value for clients and for the BC Safety Authority in this process

Client participation in this exemplar process presents an opportunity to:

- Design and operate facilities in different ways than currently possible;
- Build expertise on this new safety management approach (early adopter advantage);
- Be an industry leader in establishing a new regulatory approach to safety management;
- Have access to a greater level of support from the BC Safety Authority at the Safety Management Plan application and development stages than will be available later; and
- Provide feedback and suggest changes to the guidance material – content and/or clarification changes – before the documentation is finalized.

The value for the BC Safety Authority is the opportunity to work directly with the selected clients to ensure the quality of the guidance material and the suggested methodology developed for Safety Management Plans is clear, complete and workable. This will result in better quality documentation and processes.

4.0 Selection of Exemplar Clients

These are the criteria that the BC Safety Authority will consider when selecting exemplar program participants:

- Project sufficiently advanced in design and/or construction to engage in meaningful development of a Safety Management Plan. While completed projects will be considered, preference will be given to impending or in progress new projects and/or new technology;
- Workforce involvement in the development of the Safety Management Plan;
- A willingness to be transparent in practices and exchange of information;
- Demonstrated ability to implement a Safety Management Plan;
- A commitment to invest time and resources to the exemplar process; and
- Proponent's agreement to work in conjunction with their industry trade association during the development of the Safety Management Plan to facilitate information transfer in their industry.

5.0 Timing

The BC Safety Authority plans to be ready to accept Safety Management Plan applications from all clients on January 1, 2012. Consequently, the preferred timeline for the exemplar client exercise is:

- Proponent submits a Safety Management Plan Application by **September 15**
- BC Safety Authority accepts the application by **September 30**
- Proponent commences preparation of a Safety Management Plan **October 4**
- Proponent submits a Safety Management Plan **November 15**
- BC Safety Authority accepts the Safety Management Plan **November 30**

The BC Safety Authority will accept expressions of interest up to **August 5, 2011 (extended)** and proposes to select the exemplar clients (maximum two; minimum one) by **August 29**.

6.0 How to apply

Please complete the Alternative Safety Approaches Safety Management Plans Exemplar Expression of Interest Form at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/form/asa-smp-alltechs-exemplar-expression-of-interest> and submit it electronically to Pearse Walsh, Leader - Business Development at the BC Safety Authority by **August 5, 2011**. Any questions may be directed to Pearse at:

Phone: 250-718-1958

Email: asa@safetyauthority.ca