



FAQ - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## Organizational Process Safety (OPS)

Organizational Process Safety (OPS) is a next-level, risk-based process safety approach to eliminating dangerous and destructive incidents across industries. As large and small-scale disasters continue to occur globally despite widespread regulations and acceptance of process safety management systems, OPS integrates technical and organizational factors into a holistic, objective assessment framework. We have answered a few of the most frequently asked questions about OPS below:

### Why Has DEKRA Developed Organizational Process Safety (OPS)?

OPS is a natural evolution of our ongoing work to help industries and organizations operate safely, efficiently and incident-free. It is our response to the incidents that continue to occur around the world resulting in death, injury and illness, environmental damage and property destruction despite improvements and gains made through process safety mandates. As efforts to improve process safety have stagnated in many companies, we see an opportunity to leverage the combined expertise of our process safety engineers with that of our organizational culture experts to create a new, more effective approach.

### How Does OPS Differ from Process Safety (PS)?

The focus of **Process Safety** is to manage operating systems and processes handling hazardous substances in order to prevent fires, explosions and the accidental release of toxins. Its goal is to protect people, property and the environment, and it looks to good design principles, engineering and operating practices to achieve this objective.

OPS complements process safety, taking it to the next level. Indeed, we have designed our **OPS assessments** on the risk-based process safety model developed by the Center of Chemical Process Safety (CCPS). Our OPS services assess organizations in terms of their maturity in managing process safety risk and do so using a precise, repeatable and reproducible methodology.

The assessment takes into account not only an organization's operating systems and processes, but its capabilities--knowledge, experience, data, skills and tools--as well as its culture, or the unstated, shared practices, beliefs and values that underpin it.

## How Is the CCPS Risk-Based Process Safety (RBPS) Model Incorporated into OPS?

All of the elements identified in RBPS, from compliance with standards to hazard identification to process safety culture - 20 in all - are addressed in our OPS assessments. We have streamlined the RBPS framework, slotting the 20 elements into 7 workstreams: capability; incident response; risk management; asset integrity; accountability; operations; culture and organization.



## What Are the Advantages of Organizational Process Safety?

First, OPS provides a comprehensive and objective measure of an organization's process safety management maturity. Based on this assessment of the status quo, OPS generates recommendations designed to help the organization progress and identifies indicators to monitor that progress. OPS assessment results can be used effectively for benchmarking, as the methodology is precise, repeatable and reproducible.

Secondly, OPS is adaptable and can be applied to a single workstream or multiple workstreams within an organization. It can focus on a specific workstream element, several or assess them all. The process is both scalable and responsive to the specifics of individual companies.

Thirdly, OPS is a lean approach that relies on existing documentation and a company's own personnel. Consultants work directly with employees in the work environment, grounding their recommendations in practical realities. No disruptions to operations are required.

Finally, in keeping with its foundational Risk Based Process Safety (RBPS) approach, OPS recognizes that not all risks are equally probable or equally damaging. A key feature of OPS is the prioritization of risks so that decision makers can allocate resources efficiently and effectively address high risk activities first.

## Who Can Benefit from OPS?

While OPS is rooted in the risk-based process safety model established by the CCPS, it is suited to any industry and any organization. Manufacturers and service providers of all stripes have as much to gain as high-hazard chemical, oil & gas and pharmaceutical companies.

## What Do DEKRA's OPS Services Entail?

Since we value our role as trusted advisors, we listen first. Our services start with a discussion with our client to define the scope of the project: which facilities, workstreams, sites, etc. would the client like to assess? Once the parameters are defined, a team with specialized knowledge of your industry, processes and technologies carries out the assessment proper, working closely with your personnel as they do their jobs and analyzing existing documentation. The results of the assessment reflect the risk management maturity level of the organization or site: avoidance-driven, compliance-driven or values-driven. Based on these results, our team makes recommendations and prioritizes actions. Scores are assigned to each workstream as a means of tracking progress. At this point, the organization can begin implementation of the proposed improvement measures with the option of assistance from DEKRA. The process can then be repeated once progress has been made, usually within 2 to 5 years.

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