

Recommended Practice for Analysis, Design, Installation, and Testing of Basic Surface Safety Systems for Offshore Production Platforms

API RECOMMENDED PRACTICE 14C
SEVENTH EDITION, MARCH 2001



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Upstream Segment

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FOREWORD

This standard was developed as an API recommended practice under the jurisdiction of the API Upstream Segment Executive Committee on Drilling and Production Operations.

This recommended practice presents a standardized method to design, install, and test surface safety systems on offshore production platforms and is intended for use by design engineers and operating personnel. Recognized systems analysis methods are used to develop requirements for a safety system and procedures are included to document the safety system and verify conformance with the recommended practice.

Other API recommended practices for safety and antipollution systems used in offshore oil and gas production include the following:

- RP 14E *Design and Installation of Offshore Production Platform Piping Systems*
- RP 14F *Design and Installation of Electrical Systems for Fixed and Floating Offshore Petroleum Facilities for Unclassified and Class 1, Division 1 and Division 2 Locations*
- RP 14G *Fire Prevention and Control on Open Type Offshore Production Platforms*
- RP 14J *Design and Hazards Analysis for Offshore Production Facilities*
- RP 75 *Development of a Safety and Environmental Management Program for Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) Operations and Facilities*

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CONTENTS

	Page
1. GENERAL	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Scope.....	1
1.3 Organization of Technical Content.....	1
1.4 Government Codes, Rules, and Regulations	1
1.5 Industry Codes, Standards, and Recommended Practices.....	2
1.6 Metric Conversions.....	3
2. SAFETY DEVICE SYMBOLS AND IDENTIFICATION	3
2.1 Introduction.....	3
2.2 Functional Device Identification	3
2.3 Symbols	3
2.4 Component Identification.....	3
2.5 Example Identification	3
3. INTRODUCTION TO SAFETY ANALYSIS AND SYSTEM DESIGN	7
3.1 Purpose and Objectives.....	7
3.2 Safety Flow Chart	7
3.3 Modes of Safety System Operation	7
3.4 Premises for Basic Analysis and Design	7
4. PROTECTION CONCEPTS AND SAFETY ANALYSIS.....	8
4.1 Introduction.....	8
4.2 Protection Concepts	8
4.3 Safety Analysis	15
4.4 Analysis and Design Procedure Summary.....	16
APPENDIX A PROCESS COMPONENT ANALYSIS	17
APPENDIX B ANALYSIS TABLES	55
APPENDIX C SUPPORT SYSTEMS	63
APPENDIX D TESTING AND REPORTING PROCEDURES	69
APPENDIX E EXAMPLES OF SAFETY ANALYSIS FLOW DIAGRAM AND SAFETY ANALYSIS FUNCTION EVALUATION (SAFE) CHART	75
APPENDIX F TOXIC GAS SECTION.....	87
APPENDIX G DEFINITIONS	91
Figures	
2-1 Examples of Safety Device Identification	5
3-1 Safety Flow Chart—Offshore Production Facility	9
A-1.1 Recommended Safety Devices—Wellhead Flow Lines.....	19
A-1.2 Recommended Safety Devices—Underwater Wellhead Flow Lines	20
A-1.3 Recommended Safety Devices—Satellite Well	21
A-2 Recommended Safety Devices—Wellhead Injection Lines.....	23
A-3 Recommended Safety Devices—Headers	25
A-4 Recommended Safety Devices—Pressure Vessel	27
A-5 Recommended Safety Devices—Atmospheric Vessels	30
A-6.1 Recommended Safety Devices—Typical Fired Vessel (Natural Draft).....	34
A-6.2 Recommended Safety Devices—Typical Fired Vessel (Forced Draft)	35
A-6.3 Recommended Safety Devices—Exhaust Heated Component	36

A-7.1 Recommended Safety Devices—Pipeline Pump	41
A-7.2 Recommended Safety Devices—Glycol Powered Glycol Pump	42
A-7.3 Recommended Safety Devices—Other Pump	43
A-8 Recommended Safety Devices—Compressor Unit	46
A-9 Recommended Safety Devices—Pipelines	49
A-10 Recommended Safety Devices—Heat Exchangers (Shell-Tube)	52
B-1 Safety Analysis Function Evaluation Chart (SAFE)	62
E-1.1 Example Safety Analysis Flow Diagram of Platform Production Process	76
E-1.2 Safety Analysis Function Evaluation Chart (SAFE)	77
E-2.1	83
E-2.2	84
E-2.3 Safety Analysis Function Evaluation Chart (SAFE)	85

Tables

2-1 Safety Device Symbols	4
2-2 Component Identification	6
A-1.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Flow Line Segment	22
A-1.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Flow Line Segment	22
A-2.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Wellhead Injection Lines	24
A-2.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Wellhead Injection Lines	24
A-3.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Headers	26
A-3.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Headers	26
A-4.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT) Pressure Vessels	28
A-4.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Pressure Vessels	29
A-5.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Atmospheric Vessels	31
A-5.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Atmospheric Vessels	31
A-6.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Fired Components Natural Draft	37
A-6.2 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Fired Components Forced Draft	37
A-6.3 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Exhaust Heated Components	37
A-6.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Fired and Exhaust Heated Components	38
A-6.3 Safe Operating Procedures	39
A-7.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Pumps	44
A-7.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Pumps	44
A-8.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Compressors	47
A-8.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Compressors	47
A-9.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Pipelines	50
A-9.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Pipelines	50
A-10.1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)—Heat Exchangers (Shell-Tube)	53
A-10.2 Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)—Heat Exchangers (Shell-Tube)	53
B-1 Safety Analysis Table (SAT)	55
B-1 Composite Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC)	56
C-1 Guidelines for Fusible Plug Installations	67
D-1 Safety Device Test Data Safety Device	71
D-2 Safety Device Test Procedures	72

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1. GENERAL

1.1 INTRODUCTION

For many years the petroleum industry has prepared documents representing the combined knowledge and experience of industry on various phases of oil and gas producing operations. In continuation of this effort, this recommended practice presents a systematization of proven practices for providing a basic surface safety system for offshore production platforms. Proper application of these practices, along with good design, maintenance, and operation of the entire production facility, should provide an operationally safe platform.

1.2 SCOPE

This document presents recommendations for designing, installing, and testing a basic surface safety system on an offshore production platform. The basic concepts of a platform safety system are discussed and protection methods and requirements of the system are outlined.

This recommended practice illustrates how system analysis methods can be used to determine safety requirements to protect any process component. Actual analyses of the principal components are developed in such a manner that the requirements determined will be applicable whenever the component is used in the process. The safety requirements of the individual process components may then be integrated into a complete platform safety system. The analysis procedures include a method to document and verify system integrity. A uniform method of identifying and symbolizing safety devices is presented and the analysis method is exemplified by a sample process system.

In addition to the basic surface safety system, this recommended practice covers ancillary systems such as pneumatic supply and liquid containment. Procedures for testing common safety devices are presented with recommendations for test data and acceptable test tolerances.

This recommended practice emphasizes pneumatic systems since they are the most commonly used; however, the same principles and procedures are applicable to hydraulic and electrical systems and to systems incorporating two or more control media. Instrumentation logic circuits are not discussed since these should be left to the discretion of the designer as long as the recommended safety functions are accomplished. Rotating machinery is considered in this recommended practice as a unitized process component as it interfaces with the platform safety system. When rotating machinery (such as a pump or compressor) installed as a unit

consists of several process components, each component can be analyzed as prescribed in this recommended practice.

1.3 ORGANIZATION OF TECHNICAL CONTENT

The technical content of this recommended practice is arranged as follows:

- a. Section 2: Recommended standard symbols and abbreviations for safety device and process component identification.
- b. Section 3: The general purpose, functional requirements, and basic premises of platform safety system analysis and design.
- c. Section 4: A detailed discussion of recommended safety analysis techniques, the concepts of protection from which they were developed, and a step-by-step procedure for analyzing and establishing design criteria for a basic platform safety system.
- d. Appendix A: A safety analysis for each process component commonly used in a production process, including a checklist of additional criteria that should be considered when the component is used in a specific process configuration.
- e. Appendix B: A sample Safety Analysis Table (SAT), a composite Safety Analysis Checklist (SAC), and a sample Safety Analysis Function Evaluation (SAFE) Chart.
- f. Appendix C: A discussion of supporting systems that perform specific safety functions common to the entire platform.
- g. Appendix D: Testing procedures and reporting methods for the accumulation of safety system test data that can be used for operational analysis, and reports that may be required by regulatory agencies.
- h. Appendix E: An example Safety Analysis Function Evaluation (SAFE) Chart prepared using procedures presented in this recommended practice.
- i. Appendix F: A discussion of procedures and location of detectors for platforms that process toxic hydrocarbons.

1.4 GOVERNMENT CODES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS

Regulatory agencies have established certain requirements for the design, installation, and operation of facilities on offshore production platforms. In addition to federal regulations, certain state and local regulations may be applicable. The following federal documents pertain to offshore oil and gas producing operations and should be used when applicable.