Oil and Gas Operational Safety Training Course: Permit Control, Isolation and Contractor Oversight

1 – 5 March 2027
Barcelona

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Ref: 608_31145 **Date:** 1 – 5 March 2027 **Location:** Barcelona **Fees:** 4800 GBP

Programme Summary

Oil and gas operational safety is the subject of this one-week training course for operations, HSE and asset managers, ending in an operating safety control review for one site. Serious events on producing and processing sites often follow weak permits, loose isolation or poorly managed contractors rather than unknown hazards. The programme builds a method for testing permit control, isolation, contractor oversight and warning indicators against real site practice. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on oil and gas operational safety to mixed-organisation cohorts.

The Business Case

Operating sites combine live hydrocarbons, simultaneous tasks and many contractor crews, so a single weak control can reach people, plant and the environment. Where permits are signed without checking the work, or indicators report only past injuries, leaders learn of weak controls too late. Managers who verify controls routinely and read leading signals can intervene early and protect continuous production.

- Serious Incident Exposure: Falls as permit and isolation controls are verified on site rather than assumed.
- Unplanned Downtime: Falls as contractor and simultaneous work interfaces are agreed before tasks begin.
- Management Visibility: Rises as leading indicators replace reliance on injury counts alone.

Principles and Evidence Base

- IOGP Life-Saving Rules: These shape the control verification work in Sessions 1 and 2.
- API RP 754: Its tiered process safety indicators structure the dashboard built in Session 4.
- API RP 76: Its contractor safety management practices guide the oversight methods of Session 3.
- Barrier Thinking: Treating each control as a barrier with an owner frames the hazard review across all sessions.

Intended Participants

- Operations managers who answer for safe production on live sites.
- HSE leaders who verify controls and report safety performance to executives.
- Asset managers who approve simultaneous work and shutdown plans.
- Contract owners who select and supervise contractor crews.
- Emergency coordinators who maintain site response arrangements.

Typical sectors include upstream operators, pipeline and terminal companies, refineries and oilfield service firms.

Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to evaluate the strength of barriers against a site hazard register.
2. Participants will be able to diagnose weaknesses in permit and energy isolation practice.
3. Participants will be able to construct contractor and simultaneous work controls for one site.
4. Participants will be able to prioritise leading indicators that warn of failing controls.
5. Participants will be able to justify an investigation and emergency readiness approach to senior leaders.
6. Participants will be able to assess an operating site against a structured safety control review.

Programme Structure

Day 1: Operating Hazards and the Case for Safety Controls

Which hazards on an operating site need a named control and an owner?

- Site Hazard Register
- Barrier Ownership Map
- IOGP Life-Saving Rules Review
- Control Verification Checklist
- Near-Miss Pattern Table

Day 2: Permit Control and Safe Isolation

How does a permit system keep work and energy sources under control?

- Permit Validity Audit
- Energy Isolation Plan
- Work Authorisation Flow
- Handover Briefing Sheet
- Permit Failure Case Review

Day 3: Contractor Oversight and Simultaneous Work

How are contractors and overlapping tasks controlled on one site?

- API RP 76 Contractor Controls
- Contractor Selection Screen
- Simultaneous Operations Matrix
- Interface Agreement Outline
- Site Induction Standard

Day 4: Indicators, Incidents and Emergency Readiness

How are weak controls found before an incident and handled after one?

- API RP 754 Indicator Tiers
- Leading Indicator Dashboard
- Incident Investigation Tree
- Emergency Response Drill Plan
- Lessons Learned Log

Day 5: Applying the Controls to One Operating Site

Do the permit, contractor and indicator tools hold together on one site?

- Applying the Session 1 Site Hazard Register
- Testing the Session 2 Permit Validity Audit
- Checking the Session 3 Simultaneous Operations Matrix
- Reviewing the Session 4 Leading Indicator Dashboard
- Completing the Operating Safety Control Review

Methodology

The programme uses a case analysis method built on anonymised permit records, isolation certificates, contractor interface documents and incident summaries from upstream, pipeline and refining operations. Participants work in mixed operations and HSE teams on one shared site, challenge each other's control ratings and receive written facilitator feedback on every exercise set.

- Suggested activity: Auditing a sample permit pack for gaps in checks and sign-off.
- Suggested activity: Mapping a simultaneous work clash between two contractor crews.
- Suggested activity: Building a set of leading indicators for one site.

Capstone Output

Each participant completes an operating safety control review for one site. It holds a hazard and barrier summary, a permit and isolation audit result, a contractor and simultaneous work control plan, an indicator dashboard and an emergency readiness note. The review is used at work to brief site leadership, set verification priorities and agree improvement actions with contractors.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is oil and gas operational safety suitable for managers without a safety background?

Yes. Oil and gas operational safety is taught through sample permits and incident summaries, so operations and asset managers need no specialist training, only familiarity with live site work.

Which standards does oil and gas operational safety draw on?

Oil and gas operational safety draws on the IOGP Life-Saving Rules, API RP 754 process safety indicators, API RP 76 contractor safety management and barrier thinking.

How is the review from oil and gas operational safety used at work?

You use the operating safety control review to brief site leadership, set verification priorities and agree improvement actions with contractors.

How does oil and gas operational safety differ from a general process safety programme?

Oil and gas operational safety centres on daily site controls such as permits, isolation and contractors, while a general process safety programme covers plant design and hazard analysis across industries.