
Permit-to-Work and Control of Work Systems

26 – 30 October 2026
Rome





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Ref: 1912_7029 **Date:** 26 – 30 October 2026 **Location:** Rome **Fees:** 5500 GBP

Permit-to-Work Systems is a five-day senior-level HSE course delivered by Mars Training Centre UK in London, Dubai, Al Jubail, Muscat and Doha — for HSE managers, operations leaders and senior engineers responsible for the safe control of high-risk work in hazardous environments.

A permit-to-work system is the formal mechanism that prevents most major-accident incidents in industrial operations — and the absence, or quiet erosion, of that system is repeatedly cited in the post-incident reports that follow when prevention fails. A long line of major and less famous incidents share a common thread: the permit existed on paper but did not control the work in reality. Leaders who run permit systems well treat them as living controls, not paperwork, and design the human, organisational and digital systems around them accordingly.

Across five focused days you work through the structure of an effective permit-to-work system — types of permits, hazard isolation, control of simultaneous operations, audit, and the human factors that determine whether the permit holds at the worksite. The cases are drawn from the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East, and the work is delivered by senior practitioners with operational and HSE-leadership experience.

What You Will Learn

- Design a permit-to-work system that meets regulatory expectations in the United Kingdom and equivalent international frameworks.
- Select the right permit type for the work — hot work, confined space, work at height, electrical isolation, excavation and others.
- Apply Lock-Out, Tag-Out procedures correctly to mechanical, electrical, hydraulic and process isolations.
- Manage simultaneous operations safely on live sites.
- Identify the human-factors failures that allow a paper permit to break down at the worksite.
- Audit an existing permit-to-work system and report findings to senior management.
- Investigate permit-related incidents and identify the systemic causes.
- Integrate a digital permit system without losing the human control that makes the paper version work.
- Coach line supervisors and permit issuers in the behaviours that hold the system together.

How You Will Benefit

You will leave with a clear understanding of how to design, run and audit a permit-to-work system, and a Mars Certificate of Completion.

Your organisation will gain a senior HSE or operations leader who can strengthen the single most important control against major-accident incidents — with measurable improvements in audit results, near-miss reporting and the quality of high-risk work execution.



Who This Programme Is For

The programme is designed for HSE managers and directors; operations and plant managers; senior process and maintenance engineers; permit issuers and authorised gas testers in supervisory positions; senior construction and project managers in hazardous environments; and internal HSE auditors and major-hazard compliance leads. The seniority floor is senior manager and above.

The emphasis throughout is on the gap between the permit as written and the work as done. Delegates audit sample permit systems, walk through isolation scenarios, and rehearse the supervisory conversations that determine whether a permit is a live control or a signature collected on the way to the job.