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Guidance on Practice for IP 15 Area Classification

GP 44-65

BP GROUP
ENGINEERING TECHNICAL PRACTICES

Foreword

This is the first issue of Engineering Technical Practice (ETP) BP GP 44-65. This Guidance on Practice (GP) is based on parts of heritage documents from the merged BP companies as follows:

British Petroleum

RP 44-6 Area Classification to IP 15 (June 1992).

ARCO Oil and Gas

Recommended Practices Onshore – Overview (Rev. 0, July 7, 1991).

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Introduction

- a. Guidance for area classification is based on The Institute of Petroleum Model Code of Safe Practice IP 15, Area Classification Code for Installations Handling Flammable Fluids, 3rd Edition, July, 2005.
- b. Guidance statements of this GP are modifications to IP 15.
- c. Modifications to IP 15 are identified as Add, Modify to Read, or Delete.
- d. Paragraph numbers in this specification correspond to IP 15.
- e. Paragraphs of IP 15 that are not revised remain applicable.



Chapter 1 Introduction

1.2 Area classification – Limits of applicability

Add

1.2.2 Legislative regulations, local codes, and standards

- a. If area classification provided by this GP is in conflict with local legislative requirements, the legislative requirements shall take precedence.
- b. If area classification local codes and standards are in conflict with guidance given in this GP, the more logical and/or stringent text shall govern.

1.4 Safety principles fundamental to area classification

1.4.2 Good standard of design and operation

Modify to Read

The area classification technique described here and the distances recommended assume that the facility to which they are applied is designed, constructed, maintained, and operated generally in accordance with good industry practice. This means that installations should be designed to BP Group Practices or to other codes and standards approved by BP as technically acceptable alternatives.

1.5 The management of area classification

Add

Area classification by a third party, i.e. contractor or consultant, shall be approved by BP.

The person responsible for area classification shall have sufficient authority and seniority to select a competent team, but there is no requirement for him/her to be involved in the detail work. Management shall participate in the selection and appointment of the responsible person. The responsible person varies depending on the business and whether the classification is for an existing site or a project.

Chapter 3 The direct example method for classification of common types of facilities in open areas

3.1 Scope

3.1.3 Climate variations

Add to Third Paragraph

In other locations, the maximum ambient temperature may be assumed to be that temperature which meteorological records show is unlikely to be exceeded for more than 90 hours/year.

3.2 Storage tanks

Add to First Paragraph

Class II(1) and III(1) liquids should be considered as Class II(2) and III(2) respectively if they receive material direct from a process unit or if the storage tanks are heated. Any exception to this shall be subject to approval by BP and should be considered only when:

- (a) The unit feed is from other tankage, tested for flash point before storage.

