Background

The International Safety Rating System (ISRS) was devised to measure an organisation’s effectiveness in safety management by independently auditing the level of safety applied to 20 elements and giving organisations an overall safety rating scored out of 10.

In 1999, UKAEA set a target for all of its sites to achieve ISRS Level 6 by March 2002. This required scoring a minimum of 40% across 10 of the elements with a minimum of 25% in any element.

ISRS is widely used by factories, power stations and the oil industry to assess safety levels. There are few sites holding an ISRS rating that have such a diverse usage as Harwell, where the majority of workers are not direct employees, but tenants.

Objective

To achieve an ISRS rating of Level 6 for the Harwell site by March 2002.

Key challenges

- Training the ISRS champions.
- Understanding the UKAEA management system in periods of change.
- Dealing with variations in the application of safety management procedures on individual projects.
- Co-ordinating individual project and department management systems into a site-wide policy.
Solution

The Harwell site management appointed and trained a group of ‘ISRS champions’ from the site, to be responsible for individual elements assessed in the ISRS audit. The champions ensured that on a local level any action needed to achieve the accreditation was implemented, and worked closely with the project team to promote the safety culture across the site.

A number of the elements were already fulfilled by the Harwell management systems, and were integrated by the project team into the safety audit.

Regular meetings with the site management were established to monitor how the site manages the risks of injury to personnel, damage to property, pollution and damage to the reputation of the Harwell site and UKAEA as a whole.

Outcome

• The first external audit at Harwell achieved a rating of Level 6 in October 2001, 6 months ahead of the target. This was confirmed with increased scores in an internal audit in September 2002.

• The achievement of Level 6 at the initial audit, when a lower rating was expected, confirmed the effectiveness of the safety management systems across the whole site and the commitment of the ISRS element champions.

• The safety team plans to prepare for further assessments to reach higher levels, if this will provide a benefit to the management of health and safety at Harwell.

• UKAEA utilises ISRS to provide an indication of site safety management and improve safety, health and environment management systems.

Key facts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project start date</th>
<th>January 2000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ISRS Level 6 achieved</td>
<td>October 2001</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next external audit</td>
<td>October 2003</td>
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