

Step Change Safety Alert Template



Alert Title

Gas leak from a valve stem

What leaked and where from? E.g.: "Lube oil leak from compressor system open vent"

Incident Date

6th June 2013

The date on which the incident occurred, not when this form was completed

Location Type

Fixed Platform

E.g. Floating/Fixed Production, Drill Rig, Vessel, etc.

Specific Equipment Involved

Injection Header isolation Valve

Give as much detail as possible about the equipment involved

Description of What Happened

During a routine platform inspection tour, an operator detected a smell of gas from the vicinity of the common injection header isolation valve XCV-40008. Further investigation utilising a gas detector and 'snoop' leak detection liquid determined that the leak was from the valve stem to gearbox flange on this valve. The concentration of the leak was determined to be 9% gas at 150mm distance from the leak point. Platform management team were alerted and the instruction was given to isolate and depressurise the leak source, this required a controlled shut down of the operation to achieve the required isolation to make the area safe and to effect further investigation and repair works.

Be as detailed as possible. Give equipment history and approximate time(s) of actions/occurrences related to the incident

Cause of Incident

Elastomer Degradation

Build from OIR/12 checklist

Incident Consequences

After the detection of the gas seep actions were taken to limit the potential for escalation, through shut down and venting of the area before an appropriate fix could be affected

Include the release itself and any subsequent emergency actions/dangerous occurrences

Lessons Learned

- The plant operating philosophy may not be compatible with the seals that are presently installed subjecting the elastomers to explosive decompression

Include a few bullet points clarifying what was learned from the incident

Recommendations/Actions

- A review of where these seals are installed on valves is presently underway

Include a few bullet points stating any recommendations/actions that will be made/taken as a result of the lessons learned

Contact Details (Optional)

Andrew Miller, Centrica Storage Limited

If you would like your submission to be anonymous, leave this section blank