CGA

Compressed Gas Association

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APPLICATION OF OSHA PSM AND EPA RMP TO THE COMPRESSED GAS INDUSTRY

FOURTH EDITION

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Work Item 08-042
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NOTE—Technical changes from the previous edition are underlined.

NOTE—Appendix A (Informative) is for information only.

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1 Introduction

The U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Process Safety Management (PSM) standard and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Risk Management Program (RMP) rule require that some U.S. industrial gas facilities comply with these regulations. For the purpose of this document, OSHA PSM refers to Title 29 of the U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (29 CFR) Part 1910.119, "Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals", and EPA RMP refers to Title 40 of the U.S. *Code of Federal Regulations* (40 CFR) Part 68, "Chemical Accident Prevention Provisions" [1, 2].[1]

2 Scope

This guidance document defines the criteria that can be applied to industrial gas facilities to evaluate the scope and extent of application of the PSM and RMP regulations. This guidance document also:

- explains how the OSHA PSM standard and the EPA RMP rule apply to processes commonly found in the gas industry;
- defines criteria that can be used to determine if a process is covered by the OSHA PSM standard or the EPA RMP rule;
- establishes a basis for determining reasonable boundaries of covered processes;
- explains the major differences between the OSHA PSM standard and the EPA RMP rule; and
- explains the exemptions allowed under each regulation.

3 Overview of PSM and RMP requirements

Both the OSHA PSM and EPA RMP regulations are intended to prevent or lessen the consequences of a catastrophic release of a regulated substance from a covered process. Processes are defined broadly to encompass any activity involving a chemical including any use, storage, manufacturing, handling, on-site movement of chemicals, or any combination of these activities. This definition of process also includes any group of vessels that are interconnected and separate vessels that are located so a regulated substance could be involved in a potential release. Transportation activities regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) including pipelines are excluded from coverage.

While PSM requirements focus on facility and worker safety, the RMP requirements are concerned with the possible effects on the community outside the facility in the event of a catastrophic fire or loss of containment at the facility. The RMP rule requires the implementation of a risk management program for all covered processes at facilities containing regulated substances above threshold quantities. A full risk management program is composed of a hazard assessment, a management system, a prevention program, and an emergency response program. However, RMP allows for a tiered approach to regulating stationary sources subject to the rule. In addition, the RMP rule requires covered sites to register with the EPA and submit a risk management plan. There are no such requirements under PSM. Also, PSM does not allow a tiered approach and requires a 14-element prevention program for all covered processes.

A facility's compliance obligations under RMP are determined by the program level for which it qualifies. The placement of a facility into one of the three program levels is based on the facility's 5-yr accident history, its off-site impact potential, and the types of processes operated at the site. In short, facilities that present a greater risk to off-site receptors must comply with more stringent requirements than those that present a lower risk to off-site receptors. Table 1 illustrates the different regulatory requirements between the two regulations.

The lists of regulated substances under the PSM and RMP regulations are similar but not identical. Differences can include the substances themselves, the threshold quantity values, or both. Refer to 29 CFR 1910.119(a) and 40 CFR 68.130 for the lists of regulated substances under PSM and RMP, respectively [1, 2].

[1] References are shown by bracketed numbers and are listed in order of appearance in the reference section.