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AICHE CCPSC Exam Syllabus Topics:

Section	Weight	Objectives
Topic 1: Incident Investigation and Learning	15%	- Learning and Improvement • 1. Corrective actions implementation • 2. Knowledge sharing and prevention - Investigation Methodology • 1. Evidence collection and analysis • 2. Root cause analysis
Topic 2: Process Safety Management Systems	30%	- Operating Procedures and Safe Work Practices • 1. Permit systems, lockout/tagout • 2. Procedure development and maintenance - Management of Change • 1. Risk assessment for changes • 2. Technical and administrative review - Asset Integrity and Reliability • 1. Maintenance, inspection, testing • 2. Equipment quality assurance - Process Knowledge Management • 1. Documentation, P&IDs, design basis • 2. Data management and integrity

Topic 3: Measurement, Audit, and Continuous Improvement	15%	- Audit and Assessment • 1. Compliance verification • 2. System effectiveness evaluation - Performance Indicators • 1. Leading and lagging metrics • 2. Data collection and reporting
Topic 4: Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis	25%	- Hazard Assessment Methods • 1. FMEA, LOPA, Quantitative Risk Analysis • 2. HAZOP, What-If, Checklist - Risk Evaluation and Control • 1. Risk criteria and prioritization • 2. Inherent safety, prevention, mitigation
Topic 5: Risk Based Process Safety (RBPS) Fundamentals	15%	- Process Safety Competency • 1. Competency verification • 2. Knowledge and skills requirements • 3. Training and development - Process Safety Culture • 1. Leadership and commitment • 2. Compliance and standards • 3. Workforce engagement

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AICHE CCPS Process Safety Professional Certification Sample Questions (Q20-Q25):

NEW QUESTION # 20

The accumulation for a relief device is:

- A. The pressure increase over the MAWP expressed as a percentage of the set pressure
- B. The pressure increase over the set pressure expressed as a percentage of the MAWP
- **C. The pressure increase over the set pressure expressed as a percentage of the set pressure**
- D. The pressure increase over the MAWP expressed as a percentage of the MAWP

Answer: C

Explanation:

The correct answer is C because accumulation is defined (per CCPS and industry standards such as ASME) as the pressure increase above the relief device set pressure, expressed as a percentage of the set pressure .

When a relief device (such as a safety valve or rupture disc) activates, the system pressure is allowed to rise above the set pressure during discharge. This temporary pressure increase is called accumulation . It reflects the system's ability to safely handle

overpressure while the relief device is relieving excess energy or material.

Mathematically, accumulation is calculated as:

Option A is incorrect because accumulation is not referenced to MAWP. Option B describes pressure relative to MAWP, which is not the definition of accumulation. Option D is also incorrect because it mixes MAWP and set pressure improperly.

Mathematically, accumulation is calculated as:

$$\text{Accumulation (\%)} = \frac{\text{Relieving Pressure} - \text{Set Pressure}}{\text{Set Pressure}} \times 100$$

CCPS emphasizes understanding accumulation as part of pressure relief system design, ensuring that vessels can tolerate the maximum allowable accumulation (often 10% for single relief devices under many codes) without exceeding safe limits.

NEW QUESTION # 21

During a Risk Based Process Safety audit, one operator states that refresher training should be provided more frequently. What actions should the auditor take? (Select all that apply)

- A. The auditor should record this input, but not classify this as a finding based on a single observation
- B. The auditor should not classify this as a finding because the operator should not have been interviewed
- C. The auditor should classify this as a finding. No additional information is required
- D. The auditor should interview additional operators before deciding whether to classify the observation as a finding

Answer: A,D

Explanation:

The correct answers are B and D because CCPS emphasizes that audit findings must be based on sufficient, corroborated evidence, not isolated observations.

Option B is correct because the auditor should capture and document all relevant input, including operator concerns. However, a single statement is not enough to justify a formal finding. It should be treated as potential evidence requiring further evaluation.

Option D is also correct because auditors are expected to seek additional information and validate observations. Interviewing more operators, reviewing training records, and examining performance data helps determine whether the concern represents a systemic issue or an isolated opinion.

Option A is incorrect because immediately classifying a finding without verification contradicts the CCPS principle of evidence-based auditing. Option C is incorrect because operator interviews are a critical part of audits, providing insight into how systems function in practice.

CCPS highlights that effective audits rely on triangulation of evidence -combining interviews, documentation, and observations-to ensure findings are accurate, objective, and meaningful for continuous improvement.

NEW QUESTION # 22

What is it called when a process operates outside of documented standard operating limits?

- A. Emergency Response
- B. Consequences of Deviation
- C. Abnormal Operations
- D. Transient Operation

Answer: C

Explanation:

The correct answer is C. Abnormal Operations because, according to CCPS guidance, any condition in which a process is operating outside its documented safe operating limits or boundaries is classified as an abnormal situation. Safe operating limits are defined within operating procedures and are part of the Process Safety Information (PSI) and Operating Procedures elements of RBPS. When these limits are exceeded, the system is no longer in its intended safe state.

CCPS emphasizes that abnormal operations require immediate recognition and corrective action by trained operators. These conditions may include deviations in pressure, temperature, flow, or level beyond predefined limits. Failure to respond appropriately can escalate into major incidents.

Option A (Consequences of Deviation) refers to the documented outcomes if limits are exceeded, not the condition itself. Option B (Emergency Response) applies after escalation to an incident. Option D (Transient Operation) refers to temporary states such as startup or shutdown, which may still be within controlled limits.

Thus, "abnormal operations" is the correct terminology used by CCPS to describe operations outside established safe limits , highlighting the importance of operator training, alarm management, and procedural adherence to maintain process safety.

NEW QUESTION # 23

Which of the following conditions could indicate performance problems in a plant's Asset Integrity program?
(select all that apply)

- A. Piping handling hazardous material within a containment area is not on the inspection list
- B. The rotating equipment is vibrating excessively
- C. The metrics report related to Asset Integrity performance is 9 months out of date
- D. An operator can identify each piece of equipment on the maintenance schedule and explain what is planned

Answer: A,B,C

Explanation:

The correct answers are B, C, and D because they represent clear indicators of deficiencies in the Mechanical Integrity (Asset Integrity) program , as defined by CCPS.

Option B is correct because outdated metrics (9 months old) indicate poor performance monitoring and lack of timely oversight . CCPS stresses that asset integrity programs must use current, accurate data to track inspection, testing, and maintenance effectiveness.

Option C is also correct because excessive vibration in rotating equipment is a well-known sign of potential mechanical failure, such as imbalance, misalignment, or bearing issues. This suggests inadequate condition monitoring or maintenance practices.

Option D is critical because piping containing hazardous materials that is not included in inspection programs represents a serious gap. CCPS requires that all critical equipment be identified, risk-ranked, and included in inspection and maintenance plans . Missing such equipment indicates a breakdown in the integrity management system.

Option A reflects good practice, showing operator awareness and effective communication, not a problem.

Overall, CCPS emphasizes that effective asset integrity programs require accurate tracking, proactive monitoring, and comprehensive equipment coverage to prevent loss of containment.

NEW QUESTION # 24

Which of the following is not essential to Conduct of Operations:

- A. Widely understood but unwritten ways the work is accomplished
- B. A strong process safety culture
- C. Defining roles and responsibilities
- D. Establishing standards for performance

Answer: A

Explanation:

Comprehensive Explanation (CCPS-based):

The correct answer is B because Conduct of Operations (CoO) strongly emphasizes formalization, clarity, and consistency , not informal or unwritten practices. Relying on "widely understood but unwritten ways" introduces variability, ambiguity, and increased risk of error-key contributors to process safety incidents.

CCPS highlights that effective Conduct of Operations requires documented procedures, clear expectations, and disciplined execution . Informal knowledge ("tribal knowledge") can lead to inconsistent practices, especially during shift changes, training of new personnel, or abnormal situations.

Option A is essential because a strong process safety culture supports adherence to procedures and operational discipline.

Option C is essential because clearly defined roles and responsibilities ensure accountability and proper execution of tasks.

Option D is essential because establishing performance standards provides measurable expectations for safe and reliable operations.

In summary, Conduct of Operations aims to eliminate reliance on informal practices and instead promote structured, written, and standardized approaches to ensure safe, consistent, and reliable plant operation.

NEW QUESTION # 25

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