

Establishing a zero-risk rail and loading safety culture at a midstream Gas Processing facility

How introducing site-specific safety procedures and certification processes reduced the risk of lost production costs in excess of \$1 million a day

The results

Maine Pointe's comprehensive review of our client's safety procedures and certification process enabled us to introduce a set of standard operating procedures for the plant which:

- Established a zero-risk rail and loading safety culture at a midstream Gas Processing facility
- Implemented site-specific procedures for rail and loading safety
- Developed and implemented a formal safety onboarding and certification process for new hires
- Introduced site-specific rail safety procedures and certification process which reduced the risk of lost production costs in excess of \$1 million a day

This story is for Executives who:

1. Are concerned about their organization's ability to safely handle hazardous materials.
2. Are opening a new plant or are at a plant where safety procedures haven't been codified and institutionalized.
3. Need to be assured that their rail safety documentation, training and certification process is site-specific and robust.

The challenge

The operating partner in a midstream joint venture was concerned about rail safety procedures at a plant commissioned in 2013. The plant had already experienced 4 months of shutdown as a result of 2 separate safety incidents and, with plans to increase production threefold in just 9 months, managers were concerned about the risk of further incidents and loss of output.

As part of a broader logistics engagement, company managers asked Maine Pointe to conduct a comprehensive review of rail and loading safety procedures and certification processes at the plant. How could they move three times as many cars through the yard and mitigate the risk of further incidents?



Developing a plant-specific rail safety environment

Maine Pointe ascertained that rail safety procedures at the plant had been transferred wholesale from another plant. Consequently, they were not targeted to the products loaded, type of cars handled, configuration of tracks etc. at this specific facility. No assessment had taken place to ensure that rail safety expectations were met, in addition to which 'on the job' safety training in lieu of classroom-based training meant that poor practices were being disseminated across the plant. Maine Pointe's review encompassed a detailed analysis of 12 critical elements for safely loading and moving railcars within the facility:

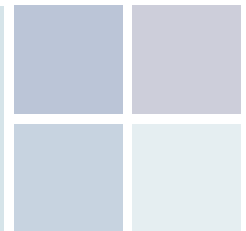


- Railcar integrity inspection (pre-loading and post-loading)
- Inspection of loading apparatus for proper securement
- Proper placarding of railcars
- Proper classification of hazardous materials on shipping documentation
- Provisions for railcar maintenance
- General tank car loading procedures
- Emergency shutoff devices installed at the loading racks
- Proper lighting and signage throughout the facility
- Provisions and schedule for track inspection and maintenance
- General railcar switching and movement procedures
- Training and certification program
- Facility security plan

In addition to presenting our formal exceptions report to the client, Maine Pointe engaged with Federal Railroad Administration inspectors to confirm our findings. We then documented a set of standard operating procedures specific to the facility and introduced a formal, classroom-based training and certification process.

Lessons Learned for Other Executives

- Rail and loading safety procedures must be specific to the equipment and conditions of a facility
- It is wise to proactively engage the regulatory agency as a 'critical friend' to shore up your rail safety procedures
- Inadequate rail safety procedures and a lack of formal training and certification can significantly curtail your output and even shut down production costing you millions of dollars



Want to **reduce the risk** of incident at your facility?

Want to find out how Maine Pointe can help you to **create a site-specific rail safety environment**?

Talk it through in a no obligation phone call or meeting with one of our executive advisors.

Email: hello@maineptune.com to arrange a call.

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