

HSE Managing competence for safety-related systems

Whether you are working to IEC61511 on a process industry application or simply using BS EN 61508, the master standard for safety instrumented systems, Functional Safety Management is a basic requirement of the standard. It is required in IEC61508 part 1 clause 6 and IEC61511 part 1 clause 5.

Now the HSE has issued guidelines for Competency Management for Safety Related systems (issued in July 2007 for coming into force now). The guidance requires that you assess your sub-contractors and sub-contractors' sub-contractors and suppliers to ensure everyone has valid competency management. So if you are an end-user or if you are a sub-contractor you will benefit from being able to demonstrate your management of safety.

So has your company been discussing the need to demonstrate your competency management for safety instrumented systems? Have you wondered how to assess your suppliers' competency management for looking after your safety shutdown system? Have you thought about how your customers might assess your suitability for the management of high-integrity safety systems work? One thing is clear: IEC 61508 requires competent people at all stages of the lifecycle for the safety loop and the publication of the HSE's guidance "Managing competence for safety-related systems" makes clear that you should have a suitable competency management system for your high-reliability safety systems and that you should assess your suppliers and your customers should assess you.

There is a free UKAS accredited methodology that certification bodies are using to demonstrate that the Management of Functional Safety in full compliance to IEC61508 and its related sector guidance standards such as IEC 61511.

Certification of your Functional Safety Management is available now and is accredited by UKAS. This certification includes your Competency Management System to meet the demands of the master standard BS EN 61508 ("IEC61508") that is applicable for all of the sector based standards IEC61511 (known in the USA as "S84"), IEC62061 etc.

The UKAS accredited CASS methodology is one of the best possible ways of demonstrating your management of safety under IEC61508.

Demonstrate your management of safety to the IEC 61508 group of standards:

FUNCTIONAL SAFETY CERTIFICATE

IEC 61508 Part 1: 1998 Clause 6
Management of Functional Safety

assessed using the CASS methodology



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