New measures to build safer chemical enterprises

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The Chinese government has attached a great importance to the chemical safety management. The newly revised Regulations on the Safety Management of Hazardous Chemicals with the subscription of No. 591 Decree of the State Council took effect on December 1st 2011. Besides, the State Council has issued two very important documents on work safety in 2010 and 2011 consecutively. There are many new requirements strengthening the role of enterprises mainly responsible for work safety including chemical safety. In the Regulations, there are many new requirements associated with chemical safety management including the safety license systems. According to the Regulations, the State Administration of Work Safety, the national safety supervision body, has issued many supporting rules to enhance chemical safety management and supervision. These rules include the Provisional Rules on Supervision and Administration of Major Hazard Installations of Hazardous Chemicals, Implementation Measures on Safety Permits for Construction Projects Relating to Hazardous Chemicals. With regard to the current situations and priority, the State Administration of Work Safety has identified and carried out many strictest countermeasures to improve the safety management and supervision in chemical industry. The concept of Two Emphases and One Major are introduced with the aims of reducing major chemical accidents. According to the announcement on the highly hazardous chemical process of the State Administration of Work Safety, the 15 chemical processes are shortened as the first top priorities, such as, Phosgene, Chlorination, Nitration. It is required that the enterprises that involved the 15 chemical processes have to complete automation innovation. So the highly hazardous chemical processes are called as the One Emphasis. In the same way the 60 substances are listed by the documents of the State Administration of Work Safety as first top priorities for the strict supervision such as chlorine, ammonia, methane, benzene, phosgene, methanol, hydrogen cyanide. The highly hazardous chemicals are called as another One Emphasis. Lastly, the major hazard installations of hazardous chemicals shall be identified according to the Provisional Rules. It is required that some special safety measures shall be introduced on the major hazard installations accordingly. The remarkable achievements on chemical safety have been made in recent years through the implementation of the strict safety control.

Biography

Liu Qiang serves as the Deputy Director of Department of Safety Supervision III of State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) and is the Vice President of China Chemical Safety Association. After graduation from university, he has worked in the government department such as in the Ministry of Labour, the State Economic and Trade Commission respectively. He has been mainly engaged in work safety management for many years. Now he is responsible for drafting of the regulations and provisions as well as technical standards concerning chemical safety management and the enforcement of the chemical safety management regulations. He has published many articles concerning the chemical safety management in different journals.

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