

PSM/RMP Audits with Remote Approach

The Challenge

Traditionally PSM compliance audits consist of three parts: pre-site visit document review, on-site audit tasks, and a post-site review of findings with a report of the findings and recommendations. Typically, audits require three or more days on-site to review records, conduct interviews and tour the facility.

Due to site closures to outside staff triggered by the COVID pandemic in 2020, facilities needed a way to meet their audit needs without an auditor physically being on-site.

Client Description

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| Company | Multiple Global |
| Project Location | Multiple sites |
| Industry | Chemical, Food, Agribusiness, Oil |
| Annual Revenues | \$20+ Billion |
| Employees | 10,001+ employees |
| RISK, Inc. Solution | PSM/RMP Audits with remote approach |

The Solution:

Auditors used to spend many days on-site reviewing records as most were paper documents. As documentation moved from paper to digital records, RISK modified our audit approach to increase the number and type of documents reviewed prior to the on-site audit tasks, which reduced the time needed at the site and cut travel time and related costs.

To meet the needs of our clients during site closures to outside staff during the pandemic, we further shifted the pre-site document review so that any documentation available digitally be reviewed prior to the on-site related audit tasks. To complete the on-site tasks, our auditors set up a series of web meetings to hold interviews and to work with on-site staff to access records only available from on-site systems.

Site tours were conducted using video technology when available (i.e., cell phone, tablet camera) with the auditor directing areas to view. If using video technology wasn't possible, a one day on-site visit was planned for after travel restrictions were lifted. That site visit would include time for a closing meeting and management review.

The Result:

The remote approach provided an efficient and cost effective way to meet audit needs and satisfy OSHA/EPA guidelines with limited physical access to sites. Auditors found the approach provided for a more focused audit. Clients found the audits were thorough and provided valuable insights on their process safety programs.

Key benefits of using a remote approach for audit include:

- Lower cost – no travel time or travel costs meant \$\$\$ savings
- More efficient time management meant a comprehensive audit with low impact on the site

Our auditors were able to complete six audits during the last three months of 2020 to meet a tight schedule for one of our clients.

That success led to continuing to approach all audits with less physical time on-site. PSM documentation is gathered electronically from the site to be reviewed by the audit team. Based on that review, auditors plan staff interviews and identify which documents need to be accessed from on-site systems. Interviews and document review is completed via web meetings. A field tour is scheduled with one auditor and any additional documentation review can be completed during that short site visit.

What our clients are saying about our audits:

“Far more thorough audit than last one with your competitor.” - PSM engineer for agribusiness plant

“I felt more relaxed with your auditor and felt they got to the root of the issue better than the consultant we used for the last audit.” - PSM Manager for agribusiness site

“Your audit team was more collaborative and engaged and our recommendations were more comprehensive and meaningful than our prior compliance audit.” - Plant Manager

“I am impressed with your staff’s integrity, professionalism and quality of work for both the audit and prior PHA facilitation work conducted for his site.” - PMS Manager with thirty years in industry

“I learned quite a bit going through my first audit with you and appreciate your help & time to provide guidance.” - Site Engineer for Biodiesel plant

Get expert guidance for process safety success

Partner with us for PSM/RMP audits

Contact us at info@psmrisk.com

Call us at 510-828-7228 to talk about your needs