



Preface

Loss prevention in the process industries

The EFCE Working Party on Loss prevention in the process industries, with 14 nations represented, was founded in the early seventies as part of the European Federation of Chemical Engineering. Its foundation was a reaction to the large-scale accidents occurring in the chemical industry in the sixties. Major accidents had become a threat to the process industries, and information exchange between chemists and engineers had become a first priority in preventing losses. So beside national activities to promote safety, a series of international symposia was initiated and organised. Every three years since 1971 the Working Party worked together with a national organising committee on a three-day symposium, each time in a different country. In the year 2001, the 10th symposium was held in Stockholm, Sweden under the aegis of the Royal Swedish Academy of Engineering Sciences. Topics in the field of loss prevention expanded over the years. In Stockholm they included:

- Optimisation of operations within the framework of safety, health and environment (SHE);
- SHE management and performance indicators;
- Risk management experience;
- S, H and E in design and modification of processes and plants;
- Hazardous substance/materials properties;
- Storage and transport of dangerous goods by road, rail, pipeline and water;
- The prevention, protection and mitigation, and modelling of accidental releases;
- S and E in specific process industries (such as oil and gas, pulp and paper, metallurgical industries, and biochemical and pharmaceutical industries);
- The impact of legislation and industry initiatives;
- Development of methodology, e.g. of risk assessment.

Case histories have always been welcomed. The conference was attended by 417 delegates from 35 countries. All 126 accepted papers have been published in the proceedings.¹

¹ H.J. Pasman, O. Fredholm, A. Jacobsson (Eds.), Proceedings of the 10th Symposium on Loss Prevention and Safety Promotion in the Process Industries, June 19–21, 2001, Stockholm, Sweden, Elsevier, Amsterdam, 2001, 1482 pp. ISBN 0 444 50699 3.

In the present selection, a handful papers, revised and subjected to peer review, are presented in a special issue, to give the reader of *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, a flavour of the contents of the symposium. In 2004 the 11th symposium will be in Prague.

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