



ACCIDENT AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

Preventing reoccurrences of accidents by understanding the root causes.

Every year numerous accidents and serious incidents take place in industry with detrimental consequences to the organisation, employees, the public as well as the environment. Accident or incident investigations are an important part of any organisation's health and safety programme. It includes a process of fact finding to identify the root or basic cause of accidents/incidents as a means of preventing further occurrences. Investigations in the health and safety programme strengthen the internal responsibility system and are essential to building a positive health and safety culture in the workplace.



An accident/incident investigation is a well-planned analysis of an event that identifies the root cause and recommends corrective action to prevent the event from happening again. Despite what many people think, workplace accidents/incidents don't just happen; they result from a series of events that usually stem from an ineffective occupational health and safety (OH&S) programme.

Bureau Veritas follows a structured and objective approach with investigations, which assists our clients to identify the root cause(s) of accidents and incidents. Activities and conditions leading to and during the accident or investigation are carefully analysed. A structured approach, by means of a root cause analysis (RCA), is followed to determine the direct, root or underlying cause(s) of the accident/incident. Improvement actions are then recommended based on the causes as well as good industry practices.

Key benefits

Benefits of an effective accident/incident investigation include:

- Employers demonstrate their commitment to health and safety to their workers and the public;
- Members of the investigation team are trained in investigation techniques and accurate reporting;
- Accidents/incidents are promptly reported;
- Accidents/incidents are immediately investigated;
- Root causes are identified;
- Corrective actions are implemented, monitored and evaluated;
- Workers are trained in how to prevent similar accidents/incidents;
- Pain and suffering are reduced;
- Findings can be used to identify accident/incident trends; and
- Associated costs of accidents and property damage are reduced.

Related services

- Failure analysis
- Reliability studies