BITUMEN SAFETY CODE

SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS OF DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION, INSPECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF BITUMEN MANUFACTURE, BLENDING, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, PRODUCT HANDLING AND USE, AND SAMPLING

Model Code of Safe Practice in the Petroleum Industry
Part 11
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1The tables are given by reference to a web page that is regularly updated rather than by being included in this Code because,
with the replacement of British Standards by harmonised European Standards, those details are changing.
FOREWORD

IP Bitumen safety code provides good health, safety and environmental protection practice, rather than a set of rigid rules, for the whole product life cycle of manufacture, blending, storage, distribution, handling, use and sampling.

The 4th edition of IP Bitumen safety code follows a comprehensive review of all sections; whilst amendments have been made throughout the Code, major changes have been made to:

— Account for the introduction of new bitumen specifications being developed in the European Committee for Standardisation (CEN) (Section 1) and to provide a means to better communicate those amendments and product handling and storage temperatures (see web page http://www.energyinst.org.uk/bitumen).
— Rationalise information on health research studies, but provide improved guidance on health management, in particular hazards, exposure mechanisms, generic inhalation exposure data, control measures and recovery strategies (Section 2).
— Account for the implications of the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR), in particular, the control of flammable atmospheres, and the control of both electrical and non-electrical sources of ignition, and provide improved guidance on foreseeable fire scenarios (Section 3).
— Provide improved guidance on planning for fighting fires and definition of necessary response capabilities for small and large tank fires (Section 4).
— Provide new guidance on environmental protection, given its greater prominence (Section 5).
— Apply the updated philosophy for area classification to storage tanks (Section 8).
— Account for the need for better control of high level access (Section 9).
— Simplify health exposure data for product handling and use applications (Section 10).
— Enhance the guidance on the requirements for the safe delivery of bitumen products to customer sites (Section 10).
— Improve the guidance on product handling and use such as mobile heating kettle operations, product handling in roofing applications, and fluxed and cold mix asphalt manufacture and use (Section 10).
— Account for increased understanding of the flammability of petroleum products when in the form of a mist, spray or foam (Annex A).
— Account for the updated philosophy for area classification and the selection of suitably protected equipment for use in hazardous areas (Annex C).

IP Bitumen safety code should be drawn to the attention of those with responsibility for the design, construction, operation, inspection and maintenance of bitumen handling installations, both in the manufacturing, blending, storage and distribution sectors, but also in the user sector of the bitumen industry, where operations may be somewhat less controlled than is the case within the petroleum industry generally.

The Code is necessarily generalised, therefore those devising procedures for their operations should also take into account the effect of any unusual or local circumstances, on which it is impossible to generalise.

Whilst written in support of the UK regulatory framework, the IP Bitumen safety code should be similarly applicable in other countries providing national and local statutory requirements are complied with.

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The revised Code has been prepared under the auspices of the Energy Institute Safety Management Group and will be reviewed from time to time. It would be of considerable assistance in any future revision if users would send comments or suggestions for improvement to:

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