# Leveraging H&S Audit Programs to Improve Operational Performance

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- Introduction
- The trends in EHS auditing
- What triggers improved H&S performance?
- Value-added H&S auditing to improve performance
- Conclusion

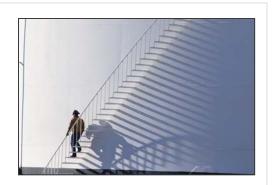




#### Introduction

- Why do organizations conduct periodic audits?
  - For due diligence purposes?
  - Because they have to (third-party imposed)?
  - Because it is a key tool to achieve improved H&S performance?





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#### Trends in H&S Auditing

- Focus has been on administrative rather than adding business value.
- Has been perceived as a due diligence exercise
- Audit scope has been prescriptive
  - Often separate for each management system
  - Assessment of legal compliance done separately
- Operations have been "audit fatigued"
- Often perceived as low-value



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#### What Triggers Improved Performance?

- Recognizing where the risks are
  - Hazards, risks and effectiveness of risk controls in the workplace
- Recognizing those who are exposed to those risks
  - H&S program ownership at the "line" level (supervisors and workers)
- KPI's that are consistent with values & principles conveyed by management
  - Walking the walk not just talking the talk



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# Value-added H&S Auditing to Improve Performance

- Recognize the true priorities
  - Focus on highest potential and their controls
- Assess "line" ownership
  - Spend time with the real experts (workers)
  - Are management values shared by workers?
  - Is role and contribution to improved performance clearly understood?
- Lead the site in avoiding repeat-findings
  - Link observations to systemic flaws



# Value-added H&S Auditing to Improve Performance (continued)

- Look for consistency in the language
  - Values conveyed versus what is measured
    - Policy statements
    - Bulletin board, meetings
    - Performance reports and KPIs
  - Compare what is said by senior staff versus what is perceived on the shop floor
- Minimize impacts on auditees
  - Integrate where and when possible





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#### Conclusion

# To improve operational performance through H&S audits, an organization must:

- Refocus
- Recognize
- Re-assess









### Questions?

