



Managing the risk of ammunition handling

Dutch Defence organisations dealing with ammunition

DNV has supported several units of the Dutch Defence Organisation [EOCKL (explosive ordnance) and LBB/Mun (ammunition testing, storage and handling)] in the development of a safety management system. By using the ISRS-framework and the applicable Defence requirements regarding the complete chain of handling ammunition, a total management system was set up after an initial assessment (gap analysis) by DNV. Thereafter, DNV was a member in the improvement team and coordinated the set-up and implementation of safety and ammunition control into an integrated management system.

Critical issues

Dutch Defence organisations have a large number of prescriptions, military orders and standards, etc. to which they have to comply. However an integral risk based policy and target setting process was not optimal in the past, heightened by the rapid changes of staff. This raised a need to better control the safety risks with relation to ammunition handling.

Solutions

A gap analysis was carried out based on the requirements of defence itself and the ISRS-framework. A target ISRS-level was defined as well as a set of applicable requirements. Based on this the most relevant ISRS safety activities for the Dutch Defence organisation were defined. These activities were discussed and worked out following the recommendations of the gap analysis.

At a later stage of the project the target changed into a minimum level 7 of ISRS (version6)

Based on the recommendations, a formal safety management system was developed. Substantial effort was given to the different training methods delivered to top management, process owners and staff in order to create full awareness on basic safety management principles and the ISRS-framework.

The production chain from the very start until the end was defined and the consequence of not sticking to agreements or procedures were highlighted for the impact on other staff.

The new of target for the applicable Dutch Defence Organisations is an integrated management system complying with the requirements of ISRS7 level 7.

Value delivered

- Increased awareness at all levels of risks and how to deal with them. Specific risks with regard to the dealing with ammunition (logistics, testing, working-up, Explosive Ordnance Device activities, etc.) are evaluated and where and when necessary actions are taken.
- Management actions are more based on personnel and organisational risks. The management system has become a substantial part of the agenda of the periodical management meetings
- All conventional ammunition is recognised, incl. training material
- During purchasing risks for dealing with particular ammunition and equipment are better dealt with.
- Management are better able to address actions based on risks and check periodically the status of improvement actions.

Contact

Steven.Vermeire@dnv.com