Author :
Gabriele Caglio

technology for safety

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Comprehensive Safety Solutions for Hazardous Plant Environments

SAFEGUARD INDUSTRIAL OPERATIONS

Fortifying Safety with Tailored and Certified GMI Solutions

Explore layers of protection in hazardous environments, emphasizing prevention and mitigation strategies with GMI's certified safety solutions.

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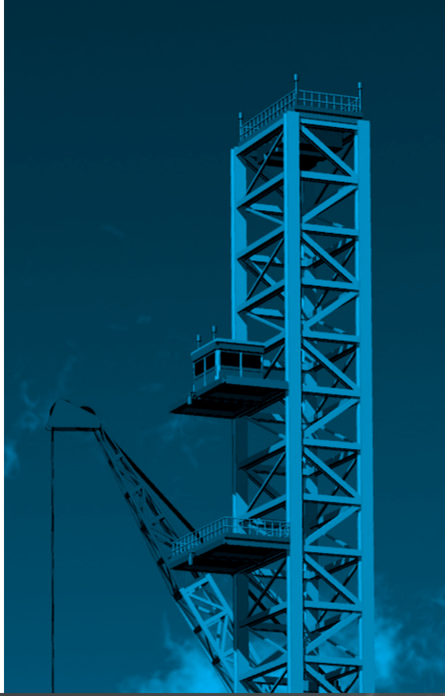
WELCOME



The objective of this white paper is to provide an in-depth exploration of the layers of protection in hazardous plant environments, with a specific focus on prevention and mitigation strategies.

By examining the critical role of intrinsic safety barriers in prevention and safety relays in mitigation, this paper aims to demonstrate the importance of comprehensive safety solutions in ensuring the integrity and reliability of systems operating in potentially explosive atmospheres, dangerous plants, and critical applications.

GM International mission is to increase its present position in I.S. market with products and services that are suitable and appropriate for Customers

Through the discussion of these key concepts and GM International's expertise in designing and producing both intrinsically safe barriers and safety relays, this white paper seeks to highlight GMI's commitment to advancing safety standards and providing innovative solutions for high standard compliance.

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ABOUT US

Glisente Landrini is the President of G.M. International, a company founded in 1993.
Although the activity of the company dates almost 30 years, the core management experience remarkably exceeds over 50 years of qualified activity in Intrinsic Safety and Industrial Electronics.

- In 1970 Glisente Landrini founded Elcon Instruments.
- In 1974 Glisente Landrini obtained certification from CESI (Milan) for a galvanically separated signal transmitter, therefore being the first manufacturer of such a safety technology in Italy.
- In 1993 Glisente Landrini started his new business with G.M. International to provide qualified intrinsically safe isolators, to support Intrinsic Safety instrumentation and systems for Oil & Gas, Petrochemical and Pharmaceutical Industry.

QUALITY IS SYNONYMOUS WITH CUSTOMERS SATISFACTION

INTRODUCTION

The process industry stands as a cornerstone of modern civilization, fueling economic growth and powering essential sectors ranging from manufacturing to energy production. Within the vast landscape of the process industry, intricate systems and complex machinery operate seamlessly to produce goods, refine materials, and generate energy. However, amidst the productivity and innovation lies a critical imperative: safety. Safety in the process industry is not merely a regulatory requirement; it is a foundational pillar that underpins operations and protects both personnel and assets. With operations often occurring in hazardous environments where flammable substances, high pressures, and extreme temperatures are commonplace, the need for robust safety measures becomes even more pronounced.

In this introduction, we embark on a journey through the process industry, exploring its diverse sectors, unique challenges, and the imperative for stringent safety protocols. From chemical plants and refineries to pharmaceutical facilities and oil and gas installations, each sector presents its own set of hazards and demands meticulous attention to safety.

At the heart of ensuring safety in the process industry lie principles such as intrinsic safety and functional safety, concepts that guide the design, operation, and maintenance of systems and equipment. By understanding the intricacies of these safety principles and their application in hazardous environments, stakeholders in the process industry can mitigate risks, safeguard personnel, and protect assets.

As we navigate through the landscape of the process industry, let us embark on a journey that underscores the paramount importance of safety, a journey that not only acknowledges the challenges but also celebrates the innovations and advancements that drive safety excellence in industrial settings.

OUR GOAL IS TO GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF QUALITY FOR OFFERED PRODUCTS AND SERVICES.

Global Safety Standards and Compliance

Across the globe, regulatory bodies and industry organizations have established stringent safety standards to govern operations within hazardous environments. Adherence to these standards is not only a legal requirement but also a moral obligation to ensure the well-being of workers and the surrounding communities. Companies operating in the process industry must continuously monitor and update their safety protocols to remain compliant with evolving regulations and industry best practices.

Continuous Improvement and Innovation

Beyond technological solutions, fostering a culture of safety is supreme in the process industry. This involves instilling a mindset of vigilance and accountability among all personnel, from operators to management. Comprehensive training programs, regular safety audits, and open communication channels are essential components of a robust safety culture. By empowering employees with the knowledge and tools to identify and mitigate risks, companies can create a safer working environment.

Innovative Strategy for Safety

In an ever-changing landscape, the pursuit of safety excellence requires a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation. Companies must not only address existing hazards but also anticipate and adapt to emerging risks. Investing in research and development to develop cutting-edge safety technologies is crucial for staying ahead of the curve. By embracing innovation, companies can enhance their resilience to evolving challenges and reinforce their reputation as safety leaders in the industry.

Safety relays and Ex barriers play a vital role in hazard prevention and mitigation strategies, ensuring comprehensive protection in industrial settings.

INTRINSIC SAFETY

Having established the importance of safety within the process industry, it becomes imperative to delve deeper into the fundamental principles that govern safety practices in hazardous environments. At the forefront of these principles lies intrinsic safety, a concept that forms the backbone of safety engineering and risk mitigation strategies.

Intrinsic safety represents a proactive approach to preventing ignition sources and minimizing the risk of explosions in potentially hazardous atmospheres. It revolves around the design and implementation of equipment and systems that inherently reduce the likelihood of sparks, arcs, or excessive temperatures that could ignite flammable substances. Intrinsically safe barriers play a critical role in this approach.

These devices are designed to limit the energy available to electrical equipment in hazardous areas, preventing sparks or heat that could ignite flammable gases or dust. By ensuring that the energy levels remain below the threshold required to ignite such substances, intrinsically safe barriers protect personnel and assets from potential explosions.

The integration of advanced monitoring and detection systems enhances the effectiveness of safety measures in hazardous environments. By leveraging modern sensor technology and data analytics, industries can create a dynamic safety ecosystem that continuously assesses risks and adapts safety protocols to ensure optimal protection against potential threats.

INTRINSICALLY SAFE BARRIERS

Intrinsically safe barriers, pivotal in hazardous environments, ensure operational integrity by preventing ignition sources. These barriers, by design, restrict electrical energy to non-incendiary levels, thwarting sparks or heat that could ignite volatile substances. Integral to safety systems, they bolster risk mitigation, safeguarding personnel and assets. Employing robust engineering, these barriers seamlessly integrate into complex infrastructures, offering a proactive defense against potential hazards. Their role extends beyond compliance, forming a cornerstone of safety protocols in industries prone to explosive atmospheres. In essence, intrinsically safe barriers epitomize proactive safety measures, vital for uninterrupted industrial operations in perilous settings.

"Intrinsically safe barriers provide essential protection against hazardous conditions, ensuring the integrity and safety of industrial operations."

FUNCTIONAL SAFETY

Having explored the foundational principles of intrinsic safety and its role in preventing and mitigating risks in hazardous environments, we now turn our attention to another critical aspect of safety engineering: functional safety. While intrinsic safety focuses on preventing ignition sources, functional safety addresses the reliable performance of safety functions, ensuring that safety systems operate correctly, even in the event of failures.

Functional safety is concerned with the systematic management of risks associated with the failure of safety-related systems, such as safety barriers and safety relays. It encompasses the design, implementation, and validation of safety functions to ensure that they achieve the necessary risk reduction objectives. Functional safety standards, such as the IEC 61508 and its industry-specific derivatives like IEC 61511 for the process industry, provide guidelines and requirements for achieving functional safety. These standards outline processes for hazard and risk analysis, safety system design, validation, and maintenance, aiming to reduce the likelihood of hazardous events and their consequences.

In addition to understanding functional safety principles, it's crucial to recognize the role of safety relays in critical environments. These relays are essential components, providing logic and control for safety functions like emergency shutdown systems and fire extinguishing. By grasping their principles and interaction with loads, stakeholders can enhance safety strategies effectively.

Global Safety Standards and Compliance

G.M. International in cooperation with TVC Functional Safety Services are pleased to recommend the TÜV Rheinland Functional Safety Program for Safety Instrumented Systems trainings, focused on functional safety aspects for the process, oil & gas, and chemical industries according to IEC 61508 and IEC 61511.

The main objective is to provide all engineers involved in safety instrumented systems with elementary and necessary knowledge about functional safety, based on the leading international functional safety standards IEC 61508 and IEC 61511. A second objective is to give anybody attending the course the opportunity to have his or her functional safety competency confirmed by the TÜV Rheinland upon successfully passing the exam.

SAFETY RELAYS

A safety relay is a crucial component in industrial safety systems, designed to ensure prompt responses to potential hazards and emergencies. It continuously monitors critical parameters and activates protective measures when it detects abnormal conditions, such as equipment malfunctions or environmental threats. By quickly interrupting power or initiating shutdown protocols, safety relays help prevent accidents and reduce risks to both personnel and equipment. Their high reliability and fast response times make them essential in safety-critical applications, providing a fail-safe mechanism to maintain operational integrity. In essence, safety relays act as vigilant guardians, coordinating timely actions to protect industrial processes and minimize the consequences of perilous events.

"Safety relays serve as crucial components in industrial safety systems, providing vital protection against potential hazards and ensuring the continued integrity of operations."

PROTECTION LAYERS

Having explored the principles of intrinsic safety and functional safety, we now shift our focus to the concept of protection layers, a critical framework for managing risks and ensuring safety in hazardous environments. Protection layers provide a structured approach to hazard mitigation, encompassing various preventive and mitigative measures that work together to safeguard personnel, assets, and the environment.

CERTIFICATIONS

GMI products undergo rigorous certification processes from renowned bodies, ensuring adherence to global safety standards and local regulations.

These certifications validate the quality and reliability of our devices, instilling confidence in their performance and effectiveness. By partnering with esteemed certification bodies, such as ATEX, IECEx, and SIL, we demonstrate our commitment to delivering products that meet the highest industry standards.

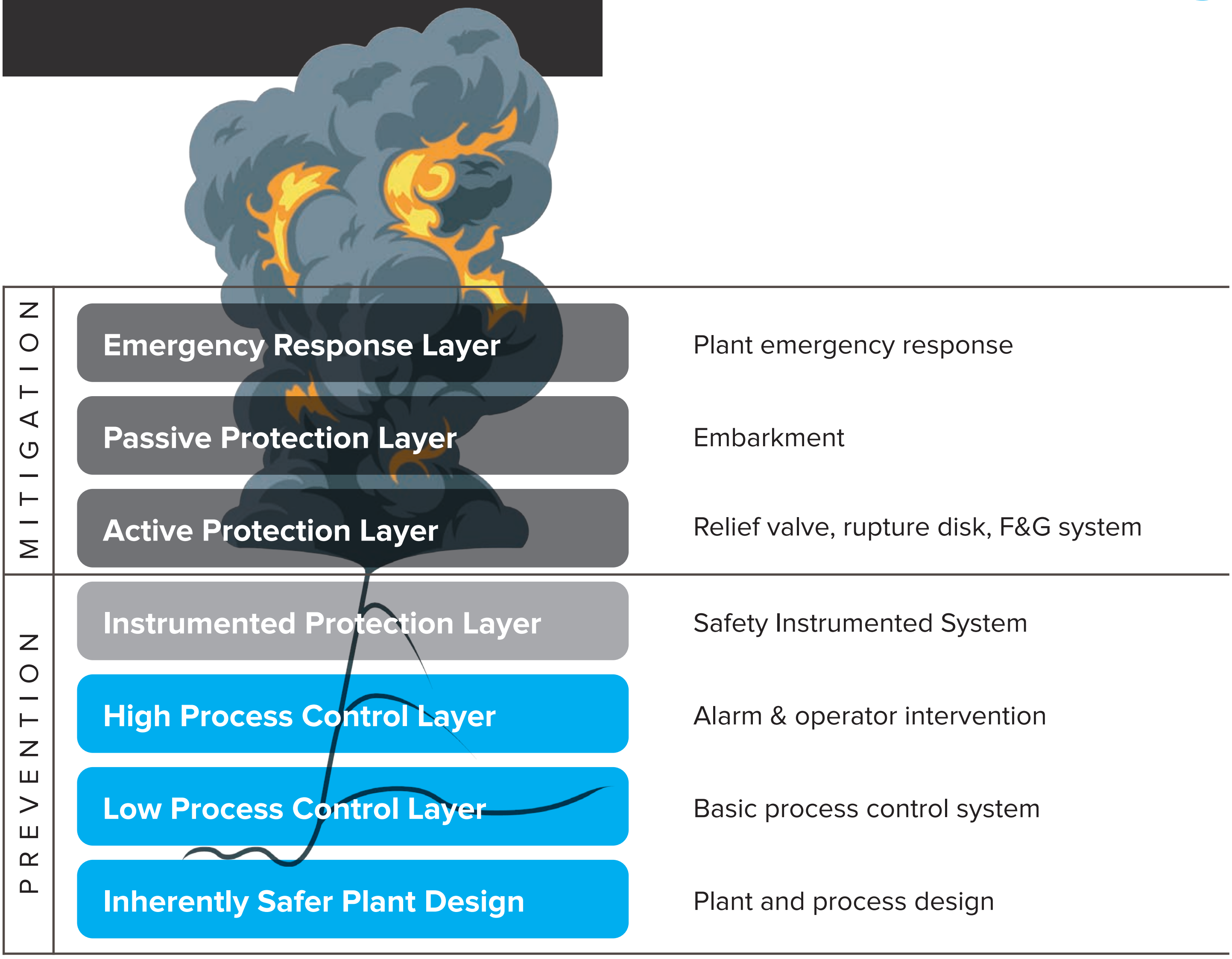
Our comprehensive compliance guarantees not only safety but also seamless integration into diverse market environments, offering customers peace of mind and regulatory assurance.

Protection layers represent multiple lines of defense against potential risks in industrial settings. These layers include measures aimed at preventing hazardous events from occurring (prevention) and reducing their consequences if they do occur (mitigation). By implementing a multi-layered approach to safety, organizations can establish robust defenses that minimize the likelihood and severity of incidents.

The concept of protection layers aligns closely with the principles of intrinsic safety and functional safety, as it encompasses the design and implementation of safety barriers, safety systems, and other safety measures to achieve risk reduction objectives. In the upcoming section, we will delve into the different layers of protection, exploring their significance and interdependencies in ensuring safety excellence in hazardous environments.

PREVENTION AND MITIGATION IN HAZARDOUS AREAS

Protection layers encompass a structured framework of preventive and mitigative measures designed to safeguard industrial operations in hazardous environments. These layers provide multiple lines of defense against potential hazards, including measures to prevent incidents from occurring and strategies to minimize their consequences if they do occur. By implementing a multi-layered approach to safety, organizations can establish robust defenses that mitigate risks, protect personnel and assets, and ensure regulatory compliance. Protection layers typically include elements such as intrinsic safety barriers, safety relays, emergency shutdown systems, fire and gas detection systems, and passive protection measures, each playing a vital role in enhancing overall safety and resilience.

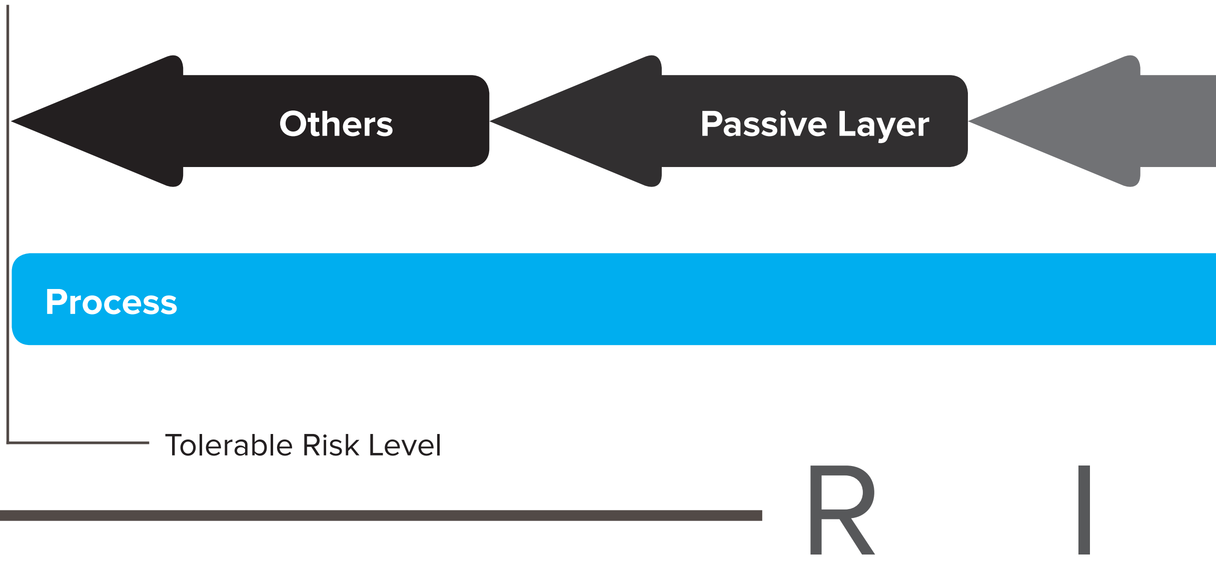


SAFETY APPROACH

Protection layers in industrial safety are essential for creating a structured framework of both preventive and mitigative measures designed to safeguard operations in critical environments. These layers collectively work to reduce the probability and mitigate the consequences of perilous events. Starting with the intrinsic risk of an industrial process, multiple lines of defense are implemented to bring the risk down to a tolerable level.

At the highest risk level, Distributed Control Systems (DCS) manage and control industrial processes. Moving to the next layer, Alarms serve to alert operators to any deviations from normal conditions. Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS) automatically take corrective actions to prevent incidents. Physical protections, such as fire and gas detection systems and passive barriers, provide additional defenses by physically preventing the spread of hazards. Finally, other preventive and mitigative measures work to address any residual risks.

Each of these layers, whether designed to prevent incidents or to mitigate their consequences, plays a crucial role in reducing overall risk. By implementing this multi-layered approach, organizations can establish robust defenses that enhance safety, protect personnel and assets, and ensure regulatory compliance. This comprehensive strategy not only minimizes the probability of hazardous events but also mitigates their potential impacts, fostering a safer and more resilient industrial environment.



SAFETY ANALYSIS

The structured framework of protection layers is essential for reducing risks in industrial environments. This approach integrates preventive and mitigative measures to minimize the likelihood and consequences of hazardous events. The implementation of such a multi-layered safety strategy ensures robust defenses, safeguarding both personnel and assets while maintaining regulatory compliance.

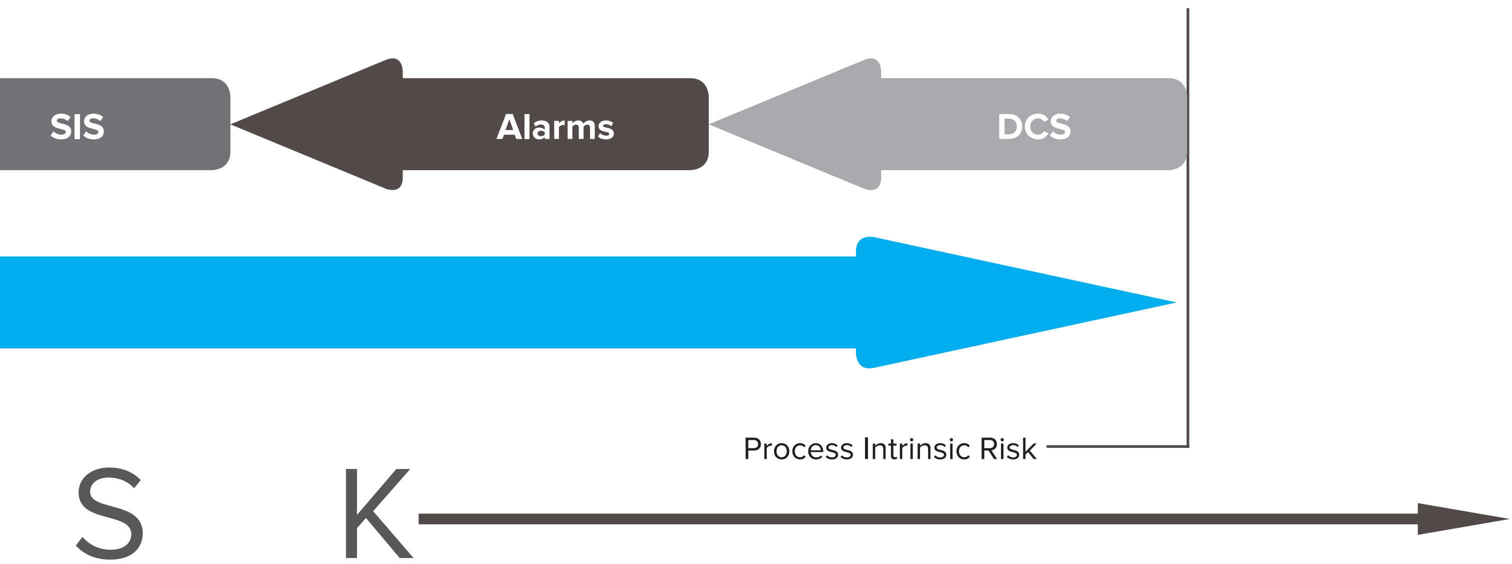
A key standard guiding these safety practices is IEC 61511 (ANSI/ISA 61511:2018), which is founded on two fundamental concepts: the life cycle approach and design based on probabilistic performances. These concepts collectively enhance the reliability and effectiveness of safety systems in industrial operations.

Life Cycle Approach

The life cycle approach is crucial for controlling human factors by systematically avoiding and reducing design errors. This method encompasses the entire safety lifecycle, from initial design through operation and maintenance to decommissioning. It emphasizes a structured and methodical approach as part of good engineering practice, ensuring that safety considerations are integrated at every stage of the process.

Probabilistic Performances

The second fundamental concept is the design based on probabilistic performances. This methodology defines the standard based on performance metrics, utilizing data related to fault rates and the probability of failure on demand (PFD). These metrics are essential for calculating the required Safety Integrity Level (SIL) for each safety instrumented function. By focusing on these performance-based criteria, industries can ensure that their safety systems meet the necessary integrity levels to protect against potential hazards.



SAFETY INTEGRITY LEVEL

Safety Integrity Level (SIL) stands as a pivotal element within the realm of safety engineering, representing a crucial metric in the assessment and mitigation of risks prevalent in industrial environments. At its essence, SIL embodies a comprehensive approach to evaluating the efficacy of safety functions within a system, guided by an organization's determination of the tolerable risk level. This determination entails a profound consideration of how frequently the organization is willing to tolerate the potential occurrence of hazardous events. SIL, therefore, serves as a guiding beacon, directing the selection and deployment of safety measures aimed at attaining the desired level of risk reduction.

Complementing the evaluation of SIL is the SIL table, a comprehensive reference tool that correlates SIL levels with corresponding performance metrics, including PFDavg, PFH, and RRF. The SIL table serves as a practical aid in safety engineering, facilitating informed decision-making and enabling the selection of appropriate safety measures to achieve desired risk reduction objectives. By consulting the SIL table, safety professionals can align their safety strategies with industry best practices, ensuring the integrity and reliability of safety systems in hazardous environments.

Safety Integrity Level (SIL)

In the realm of safety engineering, Safety Integrity Level (SIL) serves as a quantifiable measure of the reliability and effectiveness of safety functions embedded within industrial systems. Each SIL level corresponds to a specific degree of risk reduction, with higher SIL levels indicating greater reliability and more rigorous risk mitigation capabilities. The determination of SIL involves a meticulous analysis of potential hazards, considering factors such as severity, frequency, and consequences, to ascertain the appropriate level of risk reduction required to maintain operational integrity and personnel safety.

Risk Reduction Factor (RRF)

Central to the assessment of SIL is the concept of the Risk Reduction Factor (RRF), which quantifies the effectiveness of safety measures in reducing the likelihood and severity of hazardous events. The RRF represents the ratio between the initial risk level before the implementation of safety measures and the residual risk level afterward. By calculating the RRF, safety engineers can gauge the efficacy of safety functions and validate their ability to achieve the desired level of risk reduction as prescribed by the SIL objectives.

SIL	PFDavg	PFH	RRF
SIL 4	$\geq 10^{-5}$ to $< 10^{-4}$	$\geq 10^{-9}$ to $< 10^{-8}$	$\leq$ 100000 to $>$ 10000
SIL 3	$\geq 10^{-4}$ to $< 10^{-3}$	$\geq 10^{-8}$ to $< 10^{-7}$	$\leq$ 10000 to $>$ 1000
SIL 2	$\geq 10^{-3}$ to $< 10^{-2}$	$\geq 10^{-7}$ to $< 10^{-6}$	$\leq$ 1000 to $>$ 100
SIL 1	$\geq 10^{-2}$ to $< 10^{-1}$	$\geq 10^{-6}$ to $< 10^{-5}$	$\leq$ 100 to $>$ 10

Probability of Failure on Demand (PFD)

An integral component in the evaluation of SIL is the Probability of Failure on Demand (PFD), which measures the likelihood of a safety function failing to perform its intended task when activated in response to a demand. PFD is a critical parameter used to assess the reliability and dependability of safety systems, guiding the selection of appropriate SIL targets and informing decisions regarding system design, implementation, and maintenance strategies.

Probability of Dangerous Failure per Hour (PFH)

An integral component in the evaluation of SIL is the Probability of Dangerous Failure per Hour (PFH), which quantifies the probability of a dangerous failure occurring within a specified time frame. PFH offers a dynamic assessment of system performance and safety integrity, providing critical insights into the reliability and dependability of safety systems. As a key parameter in SIL analysis, PFH informs decisions regarding system design, implementation, and maintenance strategies, ensuring the integrity and reliability of safety measures in hazardous environments.

SIS & SIF

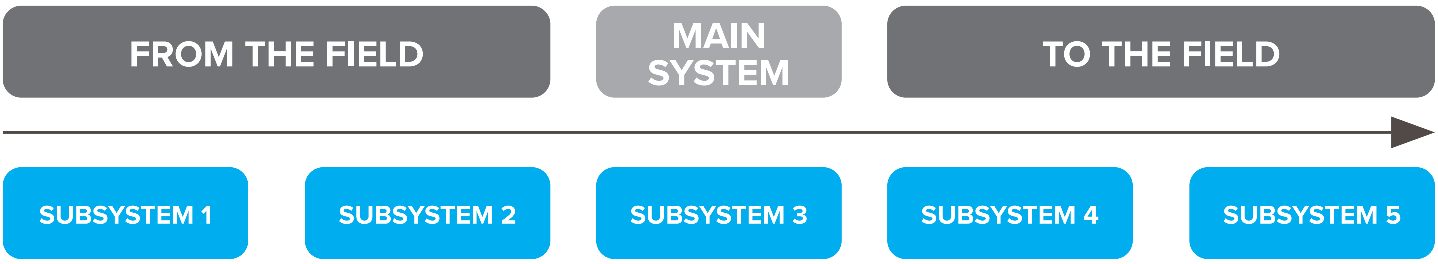
In hazardous environments, safety is paramount, and effective risk management strategies are essential to prevent incidents and minimize their consequences. Two key approaches to managing risks in such environments are prevention and mitigation. In this section, we will explore the concepts of prevention and mitigation, their significance in hazardous environments, and their role in ensuring safety excellence.

Safety Instrumented System (SIS)

The Safety Instrumented System (SIS) serves as the backbone of industrial safety, incorporating a network of sensors, logic solvers, and final elements to detect and mitigate potential hazards. By continuously monitoring critical parameters and initiating predefined actions in emergencies, the SIS ensures operational continuity and safeguards personnel and assets from harm.

Safety Instrumented Function (SIF)

A Safety Instrumented Function (SIF) represents a discrete safety measure within the broader Safety Instrumented System (SIS), dedicated to addressing specific hazardous conditions. Engineered with precision, SIFs employ sophisticated logic and control mechanisms to intervene swiftly and effectively, minimizing risks and upholding safety standards in industrial environments.



This illustration depicts the configuration of a Safety Instrumented Function (SIF). Starting from the left, we have a field sensor, such as a transmitter, responsible for detecting process parameters. Next, an analog input (or digital input) intrinsic safety barrier ensures that signals transmitted from the field sensor to the PLC/DCS remain within safe levels, mitigating the risk of ignition. The PLC/DCS, serving as the central control unit, receives and processes sensor data to make decisions based on predetermined safety criteria. Following this, an analog output or digital output drives the final control element, such as a solenoid valve, positioner, or I to P converter, to enact necessary actions to maintain or restore safe operating conditions. The Probability of Failure on Demand (PFD) for the entire SIF is equivalent to the combined PFD of each subsystem, indicating the overall reliability of the safety function.

PREVENTION VS MITIGATION

In hazardous environments, safety is paramount, and effective risk management strategies are essential to prevent incidents and minimize their consequences. Two key approaches to managing risks in such environments are prevention and mitigation. In this section, we will explore the concepts of prevention and mitigation, their significance in hazardous environments, and their role in ensuring safety excellence.

PREVENTION

In the context of protection layers, “prevention” refers to the set of measures and strategies implemented to avoid the occurrence of hazardous events or to minimize the likelihood of their occurrence in the first place. These measures are designed to address potential hazards at their source, thereby reducing the probability of incidents and enhancing safety in hazardous environments.

The primary goal of prevention within protection layers is to identify and eliminate hazards, implement engineering controls, and establish administrative procedures to prevent hazardous events from occurring. This proactive approach focuses on addressing root causes and implementing measures to reduce the risk of incidents, rather than solely relying on reactive measures to mitigate their consequences after they occur.

Key components of the prevention strategy

RISK ASSESSMENT

Identifying potential hazards and evaluating their associated risks to determine the likelihood and consequences of hazardous events. Understanding factors aids in devising robust safety protocols.

DESIGN OPTIMIZATION

Designing processes and systems to minimize the presence of hazards and reduce the potential for incidents through inherent safety features and risk-reducing design principles.

EQUIPMENT SELECTION

Selecting and maintaining equipment and systems that are inherently safe and reliable, minimizing the risk of equipment failures and malfunctions that could lead to hazardous situations.

gmi technology for safety

Dedicated to engineering robust and reliable safety products, GM International offers a comprehensive range of intrinsically safe barriers, safety relays, and other safety devices designed to prevent and mitigate the risks associated with potentially explosive atmospheres. These products are meticulously crafted to meet the stringent safety standards and regulations governing industrial operations worldwide.

Overall, prevention within protection layers involves a systematic and proactive approach to managing risks and ensuring safety in hazardous environments, focusing on preventing incidents before they occur rather than solely relying on reactive measures to mitigate their consequences.

SAFETY SOLUTIONS

ANALOG INPUT

Analog Input modules ensure safety and reliability in high-risk industries. SIL 2 to SIL 3 certified, providing fully floating DC supplies for 2 or 4-wires 4-20 mA transmitters. Features include HART compatibility, short circuit protection, and compact design.

ANALOG OUTPUT

Analog Output modules ensure SIL 2 level safety in high-risk industries. With features like HART compatibility, line & load short/open circuit detection, and fault mirroring to PLC AO, they offer seamless communication and enhanced reliability.

DIGITAL INPUT

Digital Input modules provide SIL-certified safety solutions for high-risk industries. With features like fault detection, in-field programmability, and high-density channel configurations, they ensure reliability and efficiency.

DIGITAL OUTPUT

Digital Output modules offer SIL-certified safety solutions for high-risk industries. With loop-powered or bus-powered options, they drive and monitor devices in Hazardous Areas from Safe Area signals, ensuring robust performance and ease of integration.

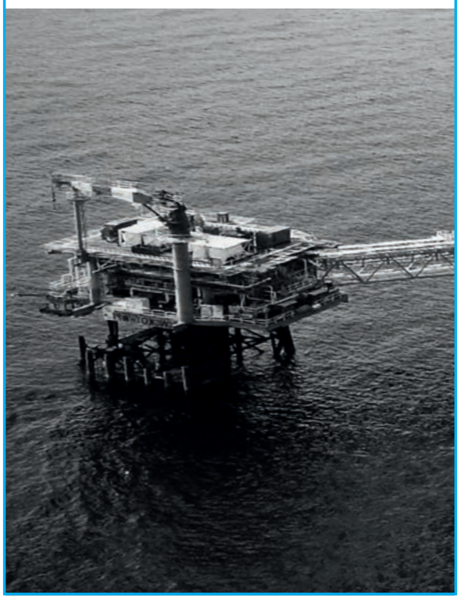
TRUST GM INTERNATIONAL FOR HIGH-INTEGRITY SOLUTIONS
THAT MEET STRINGENT SAFETY STANDARDS AND OPTIMIZE PERFORMANCE
IN CRITICAL INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS.

LAYERS OF PREVENTION

Now we can proceed with the exploration of the intricate layers of protection within industrial safety systems. In this section, we embark on a journey through the core components that form the bedrock of hazard prevention in industrial settings. Each layer represents a crucial aspect of safeguarding personnel, assets, and the environment from potential risks. From the foundational principles of Inherently Safer Plant Design to the nuanced strategies of low and high process control layers, and culminating in the vital Emergency Shutdown layer, we delve into their significance and contributions to fostering a culture of prevention in hazardous environments. Join us as we uncover the pivotal role each layer plays in ensuring safety excellence.

Inherently Safer Plant Design

Inherently Safer Plant Design (ISD)" is a layer of protection that focuses on designing industrial plants and processes to inherently minimize or eliminate hazards. Rather than relying solely on protective measures like alarms or safety systems, ISD seeks to reduce risks at their source by selecting safer materials, simplifying processes, and incorporating design features that inherently mitigate hazards. By integrating ISD principles early in the design phase, organizations can create safer and more resilient facilities, ultimately enhancing both safety and operational efficiency.

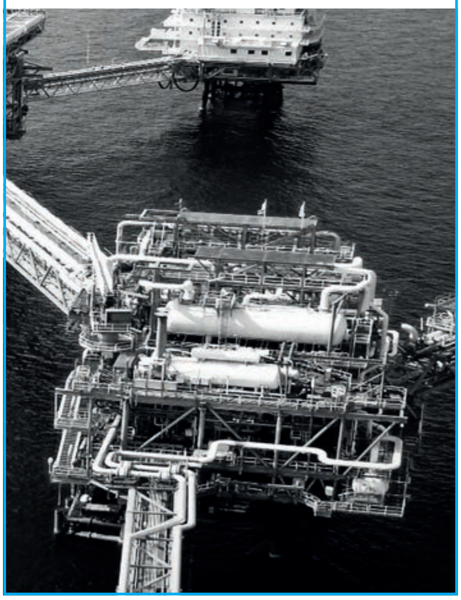


Low Process Control Layer

The Low Process Control Layer is designed to regulate essential parameters within industrial processes, ensuring stability and efficiency. This layer typically involves monitoring and controlling variables such as temperature, pressure, flow, and level to maintain optimal operating conditions. While not primarily focused on safety, it plays a critical role in preventing deviations that could lead to hazardous conditions. Although it may not offer the same level of redundancy and fail-safes as higher-level safety systems, the Low Process Control Layer is fundamental in maintaining process stability and indirectly contributing to overall safety.

High Process Control Layer

The High Process Control Layer encompasses advanced control systems and alarms designed to provide operators with insights and alerts regarding process deviations and abnormal conditions. Utilizing sophisticated algorithms, these systems analyze real-time data and trigger alarms when predefined thresholds are exceeded. This proactive approach allows operators to intervene promptly, addressing issues and preventing potential hazards. By enabling proactive response to emerging risks and maintaining control over critical parameters, the High Process Control Layer enhances overall process safety.



TEMPERATURE

Temperature Converter and Trip Amplifiers, are indispensable for ensuring safety and efficiency in high-risk industries. With SIL 2 certification, these modules accept various input signals from millivolt, thermocouple, RTD, or potentiometer sensors in Hazardous Areas and convert them with isolation for Safe Area use. Features include configurable cold junction compensation, fast integration times, and Modbus RTU RS-485 output for monitoring and configuration.

LOAD CELL

Load Cell/Strain Gauge Repeate and converters, ensure safety and reliability in high-risk industries. With SIL 2 certification, these modules serve as vital interfaces between weighing indicators or PLC/DCS systems in Safe Areas and load cells in Hazardous Areas. Featuring high accuracy, remote sensing capabilities, and Modbus RTU RS-485 communication, they are essential for critical safety-related systems.

Driven by a passion for safety and a relentless pursuit of technological advancement, GM International continues to push the boundaries of safety innovation. Through ongoing research, development, and collaboration with industry experts, GM International remains at the forefront of delivering state-of-the-art solutions that safeguard personnel, assets, and the environment in hazardous environments.

Backed by a team of skilled engineers, technicians, and safety professionals, GM International is dedicated to providing unparalleled support and expertise to its customers. Whether it's designing customized solutions for specific industrial applications or delivering comprehensive training and technical assistance, GM International is committed to ensuring the safety and success of its clients.

INTRINSICALLY SAFE MULTIPLEXER

GM International's D2000M series Intrinsically Safe Multiplexing System offers unparalleled safety and efficiency for hazardous environments. With options for Analog-Temperature Multiplexer units, Expander units, and Digital Multiplexer units, this system provides flexible solutions for Zone 1 and 2 installations. Featuring universal inputs, expandability up to 256 channels per system, and redundant communication lines, it ensures reliable data acquisition and transmission. The system's high density, EMC compatibility, and easy configuration via Modbus Gateway unit make it a cost-effective choice for critical applications. Additionally, the D2052M and D2053M units provide seamless replication of digital signals, reducing cabling complexity and enhancing overall system performance. Trust GM International for cutting-edge multiplexing solutions that prioritize safety and productivity in hazardous environments.

SAFETY RELAYS

GMI's Safety Relays are at the forefront of this technology, boasting robust construction and advanced features tailored to meet the rigorous demands of industrial environments. With cutting-edge sensing capabilities and lightning-fast response times, our Safety Relays offer unparalleled peace of mind, safeguarding personnel and assets with unmatched reliability.

Whether it's monitoring critical processes, safeguarding machinery, or ensuring emergency shutdowns, GMI's Safety Relays excel in delivering uncompromising safety performance. Backed by our commitment to innovation and quality, our products redefine the standards of industrial safety, providing a solid foundation for your risk prevention and mitigation strategies. Trust GMI for safety solutions that not only meet but exceed your expectations, ensuring a safer, more secure work environment for all.

Instrumented Protection

This layer Involves the implementation of sensors, logic solvers, and final elementsto detect and mitigate potentially hazardous situations. The SIS (Safety Instrumented System) is designed to respond to predetermined conditions or events, automatically taking action to bring the process to a safe state or prevent accidents from occurring. It serves as a last line of defense against process deviations that could lead to dangerous situations, providing a crucial safety net to protect personnel, equipment, and the environment.

SAFETY RELAY FOR N.E. APPLICATIONS

Suitable for Normally Energized loads, and engineered for reliability and precision, these modules are SIL 3 certified, offering top-tier protection for high-risk industries. With features like isolation between input and output contacts and seamless integration with various DCS/PLC systems, they provide peace of mind and unparalleled performance. Whether you need load disconnection capabilities or high-density configurations, our safety relay modules deliver safety and efficiency.

SAFETY RELAY FOR N.E. & N.D. APPLICATIONS

These relay modules offer up to SIL 3 level protection, ensuring the utmost safety for your critical circuits. With features like parallel and series-connected relay contacts, isolation between input and output, and compatibility with various DCS/PLC systems, our safety relay series provides unparalleled reliability and peace of mind. Whether for Normally Energized (N.E.) or Normally De-energized (N.D.) applications, trust the GMI safety relays series to safeguard your operations with precision and efficiency.

In closing, the Prevention Layer section underscores the critical importance of designing robust safety measures at the core of industrial processes. By embracing concepts like Inherently Safer Plant Design and implementing layers of protection such as Low and High Process Control, alongside advanced safety systems like Emergency Shutdown, organizations can fortify their facilities against potential hazards. Additionally, the integration of Ex barriers and safety relays throughout these layers serves as a testament to our commitment to safety excellence. Together, these strategies not only mitigate risks but also foster a culture of safety that is foundational to sustainable operations in high-risk environments.

MITIGATION

In the context of protection layers, “mitigation” refers to the set of measures and strategies implemented to reduce the severity or impact of hazardous events that cannot be completely prevented. These measures are designed to intervene during or after the occurrence of an incident to contain, control, or minimize its consequences, thereby reducing harm to personnel, property, and the environment.
The primary goal of mitigation within protection layers is to implement measures that limit the escalation of incidents and facilitate effective response and recovery efforts. While prevention focuses on avoiding the occurrence of hazardous events, mitigation focuses on managing incidents that do occur to minimize their impact and ensure safety.
Overall, mitigation within protection layers involves a proactive approach to managing incidents and minimizing their consequences, focusing on intervention and response measures to protect personnel, property, and the environment in hazardous environments. While prevention aims to avoid incidents altogether, mitigation aims to manage incidents effectively when they occur to ensure safety and minimize harm.

Key components of the mitigation strategy

FIRE & GAS

Installing systems that detect the presence of fire, smoke, or hazardous gases, enabling early warning and intervention to prevent further escalation of incidents.

PASSIVE RESPONSE

Implementing physical barriers and safety interlocks to prevent the spread of hazards and limit exposure to dangerous substances or conditions.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Establishing procedures and protocols for responding to hazardous events, including evacuation plans, emergency communication, and coordination with external emergency services.

TECHNOLOGY FOR SAFETY

Dedicated to engineering robust and reliable safety products, GM International offers a comprehensive range of intrinsically safe barriers, safety relays, and other safety devices designed to prevent and mitigate the risks associated with potentially explosive atmospheres. These products are meticulously crafted to meet the stringent safety standards and regulations governing industrial operations worldwide.

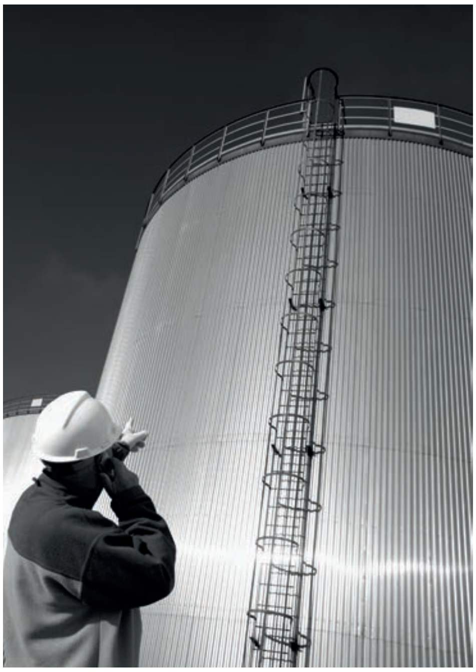
GM International is a pioneering company at the forefront of producing cutting-edge safety devices and solutions for hazardous environments. With a rich history spanning several decades, GM International has established itself as a trusted leader in the industry, renowned for its commitment to innovation, quality, and safety excellence.

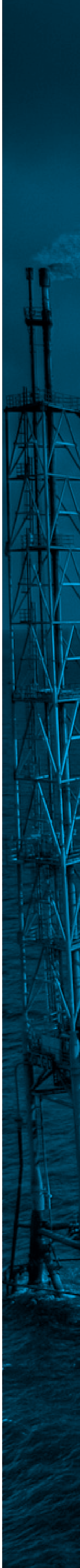
LAYERS OF MITIGATION

In this section, we explore the critical measures and strategies designed to minimize the impact of hazardous events. From safety barriers and interlocks to emergency response procedures, each layer plays a pivotal role in containing incidents and safeguarding personnel, assets, and the environment. Join us as we delve into the proactive approaches that mitigate risks and promote safety excellence in high-risk environments.

Active Protection Layer

The Active Protection Layer encompasses dynamic safety measures designed to respond actively to hazardous conditions in industrial settings. This layer includes systems such as relief valves, rupture disks, and Fire & Gas (F&G) systems. Relief valves and rupture disks serve as pressure relief devices, releasing excess pressure to prevent catastrophic failures in pressurized systems. Meanwhile, F&G systems detect and mitigate fire and gas hazards, triggering alarms, initiating suppression systems, and facilitating emergency response actions. Together, these components form a vital defense against potential hazards, actively mitigating risks and ensuring the safety of personnel, assets, and the environment.





TRUST GM INTERNATIONAL FOR HIGH-INTEGRITY SOLUTIONS THAT MEET STRINGENT SAFETY STANDARDS AND OPTIMIZE PERFORMANCE IN CRITICAL INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS.

Passive Protection Layer

Passive Protection Layer, including embankments and physical barriers, forms a critical aspect of industrial safety by providing static defenses against potential hazards. Embankments act as barriers, containing spills or leaks to prevent their spread and minimize environmental contamination. Additionally, physical barriers, such as walls or fences, restrict access to hazardous areas, safeguarding personnel and assets from potential harm. Together, these passive measures work silently yet effectively to enhance safety and protect against unforeseen risks in industrial environments.

Emergency Response Layer

The Emergency Response Layer represents the final line of defense in industrial safety, encompassing protocols and systems to respond swiftly and effectively to emergency situations. This layer includes emergency response procedures, evacuation plans, and communication systems that enable coordinated action in the event of a hazardous incident. By facilitating rapid intervention and ensuring clear communication channels, the Emergency Response Layer plays a crucial role in mitigating the consequences of emergencies, protecting lives, and minimizing damage to property and the environment.

SAFETY RELAY FOR N.D. APPLICATIONS

Engineered for reliability and precision, these safety relay modules are SIL 3 certified, offering top-tier protection for high-risk industries. With features like isolation between input and output contacts and seamless integration with various DCS/PLC systems, they provide peace of mind and unparalleled performance for Normally De-energized (N.D.) applications. Whether you require load disconnection capabilities or high-density configurations, our safety relay modules deliver safety and efficiency you can trust.

ENHANCED SAFETY SOLUTIONS

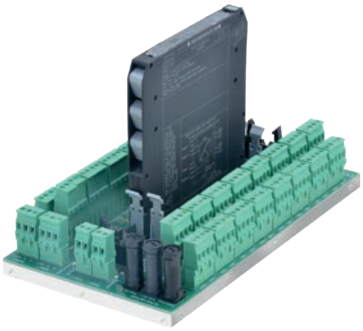
LINE MONITORING FOR FIRE & GAS

In addition to its SIL 3 level protection and versatile compatibility, our D5000 series excels in line monitoring for Normally De-energized (ND) applications. With features like line and load short/open circuit detection, load voltage monitoring, and earth leakage monitoring, you can trust the D5000 series to keep a vigilant eye on your critical circuits, ensuring uninterrupted safety and operational integrity. Plus, with diagnostic parameters programmable and accessible via Modbus, monitoring and configuring your safety systems has never been more seamless. The D5000 series is capable of elevating your N.D. application safety to unprecedented levels.

OTHER GMI PRODUCTS

ISOLATORS

Built for robust galvanic isolation, our isolators ensure safety and reliability in industrial applications. With precision and durability, they protect against electrical interference and voltage spikes, safeguarding equipment and personnel.



HART MULTIPLEXER

Designed for efficient management of multiple HART devices, they offer seamless integration, enhanced diagnostics, and simplified maintenance, maximizing productivity in industrial environments.

TERMINATION BOARDS

Engineered for reliability, they provide a convenient interface for connecting field devices to your safety system. With robust construction and versatile options, our termination boards are ideal for demanding industrial applications.

POWER SUPPLY

Designed for industrial environments, our power supplies deliver stable and efficient power to critical components, ensuring continuous operation and system integrity. With a focus on durability and performance, GMI power supplies are the trusted choice for powering mission-critical applications.

TRUST GM INTERNATIONAL FOR HIGH-INTEGRITY SOLUTIONS
THAT MEET STRINGENT SAFETY STANDARDS AND OPTIMIZE PERFORMANCE
IN CRITICAL INDUSTRIAL ENVIRONMENTS.

CONCLUSIONS

In conclusion, this white paper has provided an extensive exploration of safety practices and solutions for critical plant environments, with a particular focus on prevention and mitigation strategies. Through an in-depth examination of intrinsic safety, functional safety, and the concept of protection layers, we have underscored the critical importance of comprehensive safety measures in safeguarding personnel, assets, and the environment.

GMI's commitment to advancing safety standards and providing innovative solutions for high-standard compliance has been highlighted throughout this white paper. By leveraging our expertise in designing and producing both intrinsically safe barriers and safety relays, we are dedicated to supporting our customers in their efforts to mitigate risks and ensure the integrity and reliability of systems operating in potentially explosive atmospheres.

From the initial planning stages of a project to the implementation of advanced control and monitoring systems, GMI's products and solutions play a pivotal role in enhancing safety protocols and fostering a culture of safety excellence. Our comprehensive range of offerings, combined with our adherence to industry standards and certifications, positions us as a trusted partner in the pursuit of safety and reliability in hazardous environments.

Looking ahead, GMI remains committed to staying at the forefront of safety innovation, addressing emerging trends, and continuing to provide unparalleled support and expertise to our customers. As we navigate the evolving landscape of safety challenges, we are confident that our collaborative efforts will lead to safer, more resilient industrial operations for years to come.

Thank you for taking the time to explore the concepts and solutions presented in this white paper. We invite you to connect with us to learn more about how GMI can assist you in achieving your safety objectives and ensuring the well-being of your personnel and assets in hazardous environments.

SAFETY LEXICON

20 WORDS TO REMEMBER

In the dynamic landscape of industrial safety, understanding key terminology is essential for ensuring clarity and effective communication.

This glossary serves as a comprehensive guide, providing concise definitions for the terms and concepts discussed in our whitepaper. From intrinsic safety principles to functional safety standards and protection layers, this glossary offers valuable insights into the foundational pillars of safety engineering in hazardous environments. Whether you're a seasoned safety professional or new to the field, this resource is designed to enhance your understanding and facilitate informed decision-making.

Explore the definitions to gain a deeper insight into the critical components of industrial safety.

Safety Culture: Shared values, beliefs, and practices within an organization that prioritize safety as a core value.

Intrinsic Safety: A safety technique for preventing ignition in hazardous environments by limiting electrical and thermal energy.

Functional Safety: The capability of a system to perform safety functions to reduce risk of hazards.

Ex Barriers: Devices designed to prevent explosions in hazardous areas by containing energy transmitted through electrical circuits.

Protection Layers: Multiple lines of defense against potential hazards, including prevention and mitigation measures.

Fire & Gas (F&G) Systems: Detection and mitigation systems for fire and gas hazards in industrial environments.

Emergency Shutdown Systems: Safety systems designed to quickly shut down industrial processes in emergency situations.

Safety Relays: Devices that provide logic and control for safety functions like emergency shutdown systems and fire detection.

Safety Integrity Level (SIL): Measures reliability of safety functions, with higher levels indicating greater reliability.

Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS): Trigger actions to mitigate risks when predefined conditions are breached in industrial processes.

Hazardous Area Classification: Identifies and categorizes areas prone to explosive atmospheres in industrial settings.

Passive Protection Layer: Static defenses such as embankments and physical barriers to prevent hazards from spreading.

Emergency Response Layer: Protocols and systems for coordinated action in response to hazardous incidents.

Low Process Control Layer: Basic control systems for monitoring and regulating essential parameters in industrial processes.

High Process Control Layer: Advanced control systems and alarms for proactive risk management in industrial environments.

Instrumented Protection: Implementation of sensors, logic solvers, and final elements to detect and mitigate hazardous situations.

Termination Boards: Interface devices for connecting field devices to safety systems in industrial environments.

Power Supply: Provides electrical power to safety systems and field devices in hazardous areas.

HART Multiplexer: Device for managing multiple HART devices from a central location in industrial settings.

Isolators: Devices that provide galvanic isolation for critical signal transmission in industrial environments.

Thank you for your interest in GMI and our industry-leading safety solutions. Whether you have inquiries about our products, need technical support, or want to explore partnership opportunities, our team is here to assist you.

At GMI, we're committed to providing exceptional service and support to our valued customers worldwide. Don't hesitate to get in touch with us for all your safety needs.

Other Countries

We also have a network of authorized resellers located across the globe with 96 agents and distributors in 70 countries around the world.

GET IN TOUCH :

PHONE :

Global Headquarter	+39 039 23 25 038

EMAIL :

General Information	info@gminternational.com
Technical Information	tech@gminternational.com
Commercial Information	sales@gminternational.com
Other Information	communications@gminternational.com

ADDRESS :

Global Headquarters	Via G. Mameli, 53-55 20852 Villasanta (MB) ITALY

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