



News Release

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ASM CONSORTIUM RELEASES ALARM MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES BASED ON 15 YEARS OF RESEARCH

Publication Showcases Best Practices for Alarm Management Employed by Leading Process Manufacturers

PHOENIX, Sept. 15, 2009 – The [Abnormal Situation Management \(ASM®\) Consortium](#) has released the second in its series of best-practice publications based on 15 years of research in the prevention of abnormal situations. *Effective Alarm Management Practices* is written for operations managers, operators, process engineers, system design engineers, and safety and reliability engineers tasked with developing alarm management systems or rationalizing existing systems. It details alarm-management best practices designed to reduce alarm floods and ensure process operators can respond effectively to alarms.

Written and developed by the ASM Consortium, [a group of 13 leading companies and universities](#), the publication is a compilation of field-proven end-user philosophies, processes and best practices identified by subject matter experts. The research details how well-designed alarm systems can help plant operators prevent abnormal situations from escalating or process upsets from occurring. It provides guidance for developing a culture of alarm management that includes management and alarm rationalization practices, and operator training.

These guidelines are designed to help manufacturers comply with requirements such as the ANSI/ISA-18.2-2009 Management of Alarm Systems for the Process Industries standard, which was recently approved by the International Society of Automation (ISA).

“The ASM guidelines provide further detail and implementation examples, as well as explanations of why each practice is important and how it relates to other practices,” said Nicholas Sands, an experienced practitioner from DuPont and the co-chair of ISA18, Instrument Signals and Alarms committee.

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2-ASM Consortium/*Effective Alarm Management Practices*

“Today’s plant operators are often responsible for managing a manufacturing environment where several thousand alarms are configured,” said Peggy Hewitt, director of the ASM Consortium. “Because of the volume of alarms spread across a plant floor, it’s easy for an alarm system to cry wolf, so to speak. In an actual emergency, a false alarm can have a serious impact on a facility or workers if critical alarms are missed.”

For more information about purchasing *Effective Alarm Management Practices* and future ASM Consortium research publications and for general information about the ASM Consortium, please visit www.asmconsortium.net.

This release contains “forward-looking statements” within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. All statements, other than statements of fact, that address activities, events or developments that we or our management intend, expect, project, believe or anticipate will or may occur in the future are forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements are based on management’s assumptions and assessments in light of past experience and trends, current conditions, expected future developments and other relevant factors. They are not guarantees of future performance, and actual results, developments and business decisions may differ from those envisaged by our forward-looking statements. Our forward-looking statements are also subject to risks and uncertainties, which can affect our performance in both the near- and long-term. We identify the principal risks and uncertainties that affect our performance in our Form 10-K and other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

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