



# SAFETY TALK

## BP – Texas City Site

February 12, 2007

### **BLINDING GUIDELINES: When is a higher level of approval needed?**

The upcoming release of the revised PR-14 will identify a revised level of accountability regarding approval for “non-use” of blinding. However, today the jobs not requiring blinding are limited to:

- Removal of a spool piece for ‘blinding’ purposes as directed by an isolation procedure (safe line break practices must be used)
- Working on potable water system less than 120 degrees and has no cross connections
- Working on instrument air that is connected to instrumentation and has no cross connections

For short duration jobs<sup>1</sup>, the Operations & Maintenance Superintendents may approve the following activities be performed without blinding. (The exception must be specific for the job and scope of work, and both Superintends must walk the job and sign the exception.):

- Blind flange installation after a CV has been pulled
- Blind flange installation after a pump has been pulled
- Cleaning screens, or replacing filters without blinding
- Replacing flanged equipment (e.g. block valves, check valves, CVs, etc.) without blinding<sup>2</sup>
- Replacing screwed piping or equipment without blinding or plugging
- Replacing or repairing typical transmitters without blinding or plugging
- Where the piping design provides no place to blind (e.g. welded piping systems with no flanges)

To perform the following work without blinding, the Control of Work Manager or TCC HSSE Manager must approve in writing.

(The exception form may be found at <http://tcs-hsepolicy.bpweb.bp.com/Interim%20Directives/HSSEInterimDirective.InterimCoWExceptionRequest.doc>).

- Any work activity not meeting the definition of short duration<sup>1</sup>
- Any job involving hot work
- Any job involving confined space entry

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<sup>1</sup> For a job to be of short duration, all of the following must be true:

- The equipment must be prepared per PR-14 Hazardous Energy Isolation requirements.
- Total exposure to perform the work is not more than what it would be for blinding and unblinding combined.
- The equipment must be easily removed and immediately replaced with similar equipment or blind flanges. All work materials, equipment, tools, gaskets, etc. must be at the job site.
- Workers on the job cannot leave the area until the flanges are closed.
- Process is not exposed to hot work; no entry is being made.

<sup>2</sup> Note that approval is not required for replacement of flanged equipment in chemical plant operating areas under TCC PR-7, *Blinding*, provided that the requirements of section II.D.E. are met. See [http://tcs-hsepolicy.bpweb.bp.com/TCC/srm\\_pr07.doc](http://tcs-hsepolicy.bpweb.bp.com/TCC/srm_pr07.doc).