



Presenter Information: John Ward IEng MIED

John holds the position of Manager, Safety Analysis Section at the Australian Radiation and Nuclear Safety Agency (ARPANSA). ARPANSA is the Australian Government Statutory Agency that is the national centre of excellence in radiation protection and nuclear safety. The Safety Analysis Section is part of ARPANSA's Operations Services Branch which regulates Australian federal entities using radiation sources/apparatus and nuclear facilities with the objective of protecting people and the environment from the harmful effect of radiation.

Formal Background/Education

John is registered as a professional engineer at incorporated level by the UK Engineering Council and is a member of the UK based Institution of Engineering Designers. His formal qualifications are in mechanical and production engineering.

Work Experience

John has worked in the nuclear industry since 1986 initially as a design draughtsman working on nuclear components and equipment. He spent three years as a trials engineering working predominantly on environmental trials before moving into a product and production support role. John's experience includes the preparation nuclear safety cases and risk assessment processes, ageing management and decommissioning.

In 2005 John migrated to Australia to take on the role of Senior Inspector at ARPANSA. His work here has concentrated on the assessment and regulation of the Australian research reactors although that is now broadening after being appointed to Manage ARPANSA's new Safety Analysis Section. This work is building on John's experience of organisational control and culture to promote and assess holistic safety across all ARPANSA licence holders. A key characteristic of this approach is leadership and culture for safety.

Definition of Safety Culture

A safe organisation will, at all levels, possess shared values and beliefs for safety that produce behavioural norms that provide an appropriate and demonstrable attention to safety

Explanation and Rationale

Safety Culture interacts with an organisation's structures and control systems to produce behavioural norms. It is the core values, beliefs and behaviours resulting from a collective commitment by leaders and individuals throughout an organisation that appropriately prioritise safety against other organisational goals to allow business objectives to be undertaken without undue risk. Organisations with a positive safety culture are characterised by communications founded on mutual trust, by shared perceptions of importance of safety and by confidence in the efficacy of preventative measure.