

NETWORK MEETING – 10th Sept 2009, Piramal Healthcare - Morpeth (1pm-3:30pm)



Meet & greet

Michael McElroy kindly hosted our September meeting at the Piramal Healthcare factory in Morpeth. We were shown an excellent presentation describing the site history since 1969.

Present & correct were: Jim Fraser / Tony Chamberlain / Richard O'Neil / Michael / Myself

Many of the attendees already had previous ties with the site.

Tony had installed some of the stainless steel fixtures and fittings onsite.

Jim has worked and trained with some of the fire fighting team during their NFB service.

And I have connections through my Brother who has worked at the Morpeth site since 1980.

It still amazes me that the site has so many similarities with electronics manufacturing.

Site tour

Excellent house keeping was evident as we toured the site - inside & out. The bulk liquid deliveries and storage areas were well controlled. There were robust arrangements in place for effluent discharge, and emergency firewater run-off. Including segregated drainage systems to capture spills, and a water run-off storage facility to totally contain any major incidents prior to onsite treatment, or offsite disposal.

If we thought the outside of the site was clean, the inside was clinical. The production and packing areas would be familiar to those of us who have worked in clean room environments.

The warehouse and none production areas were also maintained to a very high standard.

Notice boards with team performance graphs were evident – giving the user the information they require, without “drowning” the display with non-essentials.

Networking

Legislation update – no new regulations since our last meeting, no significant changes.

Risk management systems – The Pharmaceutical industry is regulated to national standards, notably for the USA, Japan, and European markets. Compliance to ISO9001, ISO14001, and OHSAS18001 provides the framework for an externally certified risk management system. However, it appears to me that ISO compliance is only the beginning of the approval process. And continuous improvement never stops.

Who's doing what – We talked about risk assessments, and keeping it simple. There is a 3-stage process for large-scale disasters: Identify / Quantify / Control. This model appears to work for all risk reports where we ask - Is it there? / Will it kill me? / What do I need to do?

Next meeting - Provisionally Alcan - 2nd to 12th Nov prior to us winding down for Christmas

Ian Rienewerf 11th September 2009

