

ADVANCED COURSE
**PROCESS SAFETY IN
THE LIFE SCIENCE
INDUSTRY**

16 – 20 November 2026

LEUVEN | FACULTY CLUB



essenscia
PROCESS
ACADEMY

DEAR MEMBER,

essenscia herewith presents the details of the advanced course on “Process Safety in the Life Science Industry” organized by the essenscia Process Safety Academy.

For additional information concerning these topics, please feel free to contact Mr. Geert Boogaerts (+32 476 906 663 | gboogaerts@essenscia.be).

To register, **[please click here](#)**.

Program

This advanced course aims to increase process safety capabilities within the life science industry. To achieve this, the course has been co-developed in partnership with tier-1 pharmaceutical companies. With this 5-day advanced course, the essenscia Process Safety Academy provides industry professionals with a solid basis and wide understanding of the intrinsic hazards, possible risks and appropriate safeguards that are specific to the life science industry. Hence, also the interaction with the biosafety domain is covered in this course. The lectures are given by academics and industry specialists in their discipline. For each day, a syllabus is provided by the organization. A certificate is granted at completion of the course.

Attendees

This course has been designed for professional engineers with experience in the life science industry from whom an understanding and correct application of process safety thinking is expected to identify hazards and potential risks from occurring by assuring that the right level of control is in place and monitored. This course will help them to deepen the expertise in their roles (e.g. operations, engineering, maintenance, inspection, safety professionals...).

Governance board and steering committee

- ✓ **MSc. Ivan Pelgrims**, Managing Director, Evonik Antwerp, President of essenscia's Process Safety Academy
- ✓ **MSc. Benny Ghoos**, Principal Prevention Engineer, JnJ Innovative Medicine
- ✓ **MSc. Filip De Proft**, HSE Site Lead, Tessenderlo Kerley International
- ✓ **MSc. Inez Jordens**, EHS Site Lead Beerse, JnJ Innovative Medicine
- ✓ **MSc. John Kelleher**, VP EHS, GSK
- ✓ **MSc. Kobbe Naesens**, General Manager Geel Site, JnJ Innovative Medicine, Board Member, Janssen Pharmaceuticals Belgium
- ✓ **MSc. Peter Jacobs**, Site Safety Manager, Ajinomoto Omnicem

The governance board and steering committee of the essenscia Process Safety Academy recommend this course as :

«A strong introduction, to process safety in the Life Science industry».



DAY TO DAY OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

08:30 – 17:00

DAY 01



MONDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2026

Process Safety Management and Intrinsic Hazards in the Life Science Industry

**“ Process safety
needs integration
in the day to day
operations ”**

JnJ Innovative
Medicines



Welcome Speech

Olivier Monami, EHS director, GSK

The business case for PSM



Introduction to Process Safety in the Pharmaceutical Industry

Dan Benton and Quentin Rimbaux, GSK

Specific challenges of the sector



Process Safety Management Systems: A Generic Approach

Geert Boogaerts, Process Safety Academy, essenscia

An integrated safety management system



Intrinsic Hazards in API Development and Production

Christine Fannes, JnJ Innovative Medicine

What can we measure?



Hazardous Gasses used in Pharma: Nitrogen, Oxygen, Ammonia

Dan Benton and Quentin Rimbaux, GSK

Do we know them well enough?

DAY 02



TUESDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2026

Specific Risks of our Molecules and Processes



Static Electricity

Joseph-Marc Francois and Cecile Perez, Dekra

A sniper to look for



Explosion Safety: Dust Explosion

Frederik Norman, ADINEX

It can happen in our industry



Explosion Hazards and ATEX

Mario Versteels, IFF

Approach in practice

HOST CITY

Leuven

LOCATION

Faculty Club
Groot Begijnhof 14
3000 Leuven

F&B

three daily coffee breaks
2-course menu at noon

REGISTRATION

[register here](#)



DAY TO DAY OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAM:

08:30 – 17:00

DAY 03

3

WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2026

Risk Analysis in the Life Science Industry



Risk Analysis: HAZOP

Geert Boogaerts, Process Safety Academy, essenscia
Pitfalls



Risk Analysis: HAZOP, WHAT-IF, LOPA, SIL

Charly Picard, JnJ Innovative Medicine
What to use and when to use it?



Workshop: practical exercise on HAZOP

Danielle Keijzer, JnJ Innovative Medicine
In practice

DAY 04

4

THURSDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2026

Safeguards in the Life Science Industry



Human & Organizational Factors

Julie Avery, Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors
Performance is key



Mechanical and Structural Integrity

Erik Thomas, TÜV AUSTRIA Belgium
Can we trust the equipment?



Maintenance and Reliability

Jim Miller, retired from GSK, consultant
The relationship between reliability and risk



Operational Discipline and Controls

Jim Miller, retired from GSK, consultant
What to watch out for?

DAY 05

5

FRIDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2026

Process Safety and Biosafety



Introduction to Biosafety

René Custers, VIB
Creating a safe and responsible work environment



Process Safety meets Biosafety

Michel Cereghetti and Isabelle Knott, GSK
Industry approach



Instrumental Safety & Biosafety

Jaspreet Chana, ERM
How to safeguard



Strategic Activities of the Life Sciences Industry

Matthias Verstraeten, JnJ Innovative Medicine
Life visualization

Granting of certificates & Closing Cocktail

" The aim of this
short-course is to
build additional
process safety
capability across
our Engineering
and EHS teams "

GSK

THE GOVERNANCE BOARD AND STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE PROCESS SAFETY ACADEMY

The Governance Board is the industrial sounding board of the essenscia Process Safety Academy.

The Board consists of business leaders and safety experts from international companies in the chemical and life sciences industry. While the Governance Board determines the direction of the Process Safety Academy's program, the Steering Committee ensures that the workshops and training courses are optimally tailored to the current needs and requirements of the process industry. In addition, the Board monitors the funding and financial management of the Process Safety Academy.

Governance Board

- ✓ **MSc. Ivan Pelgrims**, Managing Director, Evonik Antwerp, President of essenscia's Process Safety Academy
- ✓ **MSc. Bart Van den Driessche**, Site Lead and Managing Director, Bayer Agriculture
- ✓ **MSc. Frank Quaeys**, Head of Technical Services, Covestro
- ✓ **MSc. Ignace Hooftman**, Managing Director, Lanxess
- ✓ **MSc. John Kelleher**, VP EHS, GSK
- ✓ **MSc. Roel De Vil**, Site Manager, INEOS Oxide Antwerp
- ✓ **MSc. Kobe Naesens**, VP, General Manager Geel Site, JnJ Innovative Medicine
- ✓ **MSc. Wim Schelles**, Vice President of Global Operations Intermediates, Envalior

Steering Committee

- ✓ **MSc. Bart Van den Bossche**, Process Safety Manager, Ineos
- ✓ **MSc. Benny Ghoos**, Principal Prevention Engineer, JnJ Innovative Medicine
- ✓ **MSc. Filip De Proft**, HSE Site Lead, Tessenderlo Kerley International
- ✓ **MSc. Inez Jordens**, EHS Site Lead Beerse, JnJ Innovative Medicine
- ✓ **MSc. Jan Luyts**, Expert Functional Safety, BASF
- ✓ **MSc. Jan Weckx**, Process Safety Lead, Bayer Crop Science Antwerp
- ✓ **MSc. Peter Jacobs**, Site Safety Manager, Ajinomoto Omnicem

