

**“Safety Associates Council: Improving the competence of safety-qualified personnel and contributing to the reduction of occupational accidents.”**

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This paper focuses on the Safety Associates Council (SA Council), an organization of safety-qualified personnel.

The SA Council works across companies to improve safety competence (knowledge and skills) and contribute to society.

Its main activities contribute to the reduction of occupational accidents at manufacturing sites. To reduce occupational accidents, those in charge of risk assessment, design, and regulation operation and management as well as rules such as safety standards and occupational health and safety management systems must have appropriate competence. In response to this need, Japan Certification Corporation launched a certification program of personnel competence from 2004 for engineers who design machinery and robot and for those who manage occupational health and safety.

Having appropriately competent and qualified personnel on the job site is critical to establishing a safe and secure work environment.

However, a shortage of safety qualified personnel remains an ongoing challenge. In recognition of this, we have established the SA Council.

The SA Council aims to contribute to the competence of qualified personnel and the prevention of accidents through specific activities for safety qualified personnel to contribute to safety and wellbeing in their respective roles. Through the efforts and achievements of the SA Council, we hope that qualified personnel will be recognized by society and that their contribution to the creation of a safe working environment will be appreciated.

Keywords: Organization of safety-qualified personnel, Contribute to society, Reduction of occupational accident, Works across companies