Report of Validation Panel
for a Special Purpose, Minor or Supplemental Award

Date of Meeting: 06-06-2013

Named Award:	Certificate
Programme Title:	Certificate in Chemical Process Safety
Award Type:	Special Purpose Award
NFQ Level:	8
Intakes Commencing:	02-09-2013
ECTS/ACCS Credits:	10

PANEL MEMBERS

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit
Dr Hugh McGlynn, Head of School of Science and Informatics (Chair)
Mr Harvey Makin, Department of Applied Physics and Instrumentation
Mr Shane Horgan, EHS Team Leader Pfizer Ireland
Mr Dermot O'Brien, Director of Process Development & Commercialisation, MSD Ireland

IN ATTENDANCE

Name / Function / External Institution OR CIT Academic Unit

PROPOSING TEAM MEMBERS

Name / Function / Academic Unit
Mr Matt Cotterell, Head of School of Mechanical and Process Engineering
Dr Michael J O'Mahony, Head of Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering
Mr Noel Duffy, Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering
Mr Pat Kennedy, Department of Process, Energy and Transport Engineering

BACKGROUND TO THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME

The programme is aimed at frontline operators and process engineers. The proposal was designed to upskill staff currently operating within the Chemical Process Industries in the fundamental theory and practice of the technical process aspects of safety. The course was initially designed to meet the needs of Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, but on longer term basis it is proposed to roll out to other Pharmaceutical Processing facilities.

The proposed Certificate in Process Safety is a 10 ECTS credit offering at level 8 and is a response to Industry needs.

FINDINGS OF THE PANEL

*NOTE: In this report, the term "**Requirement**" is used to indicate an action or amendment which in the view of the Panel **must** be undertaken prior to validation and commencement of the Programme. The term "**Recommendation**" indicates an item which the Course Board (or other relevant Institute unit) should implement at the earliest stage possible, and appropriate implementation of which should be the subject of ongoing monitoring.*

On consideration of the documentation provided and discussion of the programme with the proposers, the Panel has arrived at the following Findings, Requirements and Recommendations:

1. Validation Criteria

1.1 Is there a convincing need for the programme with a viable level of applications?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Initial demand from Pfizer Ireland, but scope for rolling out to others within Pharma sector.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.2 Are the level and type of the proposed award appropriate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Level 8 modules are appropriate

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.3 Is the learning experience of an appropriate level, standard and quality?

Overall Finding: Yes

Modules offered allow leaners to acquire of necessary theoretical and practical skills in both know how and know why aspects of Process safety.

Finding(s): Learning experience at appropriate standard and quality

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.4 Is the programme structure logical and well designed (including procedures for access, transfer and progression)?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Panel discussed proposed new module Chemical Safety Applications and determined that it was fit for purpose at the appropriate level and content and assessments were appropriate.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.5 Are the programme management structures adequate?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s): Course Boards will be convened for this programme and course coordinator appointed

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.6 Are the resource requirements reasonable?

Overall Finding: Yes

Finding(s):

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

1.7 Will the impact of the programme on the Institute be positive?

Overall Finding: Yes.

Finding(s): Course will attract leaners form the Pharma sector. This will add to the portfolio of offerings within the Institute and have a positive impact.

Requirement(s): none

Recommendation(s): none

2. Other Findings

Panel complimentary of the excellent proposal as a means of fostering process safety within the Biopharma sector

CONCLUSION

Based on the above findings, the Panel recommends to Academic Council:

That the Programme be validated for five academic years, or until the next programmatic review, whichever is soonest, subject to implementation of the Requirements above, and with due regard to the Recommendations made.

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