



PSMS

PipelineSMS.org



# Pipeline Safety Management Systems A Contractor's Guide

Companion Presentation for Pipeline Operators



November 2022, 1st Edition

---

## ABOUT

The Recommended Practice 1173, *Pipeline Safety Management Systems*, 1st Edition was released in 2015 by the American Petroleum Institute (API) and establishes a safety management system standard for pipeline operators jurisdictional to the US DOT. **While this standard is not mandated by regulation, strong support towards its full adoption exists.**

An Industry Team was developed to serve in facilitating the implementation of API Recommended Practice (RP) 1173 among the energy pipeline industry and contractor community.



**The Pipeline SMS Industry Team developed and released A *Contractor's Guide*, 1st Edition November 2022, to provide contractors with general guidance as they work to implement or improve their current safety management systems and support pipeline operator implementation of RP 1173.**



## One Industry, One Goal.

The guide is designed by industry for industry. It incorporates a diverse set of new and existing efforts into a common guidance document that supports contractor Pipeline SMS journeys and pipeline operator implementation of RP 1173.

## It is scalable and flexible.

It recognizes the diversity of organization size, sophistication and scope of the pipeline contractor community. It accommodates an organization's existing safety processes while helping those who may be new to Pipeline SMS.



# Why Does It Exist?

## ➤ To support contractor journeys.

Contractors are vital to a pipeline operator's Pipeline SMS effectiveness.

Every year, industry wide surveys continue to show a majority of pipeline operators adopting and maturing Pipeline SMS to improve their overall safety performance. The surveys are a tool that helps inform the Industry Team on key focus areas, and supporting contractor journeys continues as a key area of focus on industry's journey towards zero incidents.

# Target Audience



## Primary

---

Contractors doing work on behalf of the pipeline operator, including subcontractors. Example contracted services may include design and engineering, construction and operations and maintenance.



## Secondary

---

Pipeline operators who elect to have contractor(s) perform work on their behalf. This document may be used as a guidance tool for contractor engagement in key areas of collaboration related to Pipeline SMS.



# Guide Content

## INTRODUCTION

*One Industry, One Goal*

Provides a general history of Pipeline SMS, its tenants and definition.

## SAFETY CULTURE

*A Positive Safety Culture*

Emphasize the importance of a positive safety culture in an effective Pipeline SMS, what it looks like within an organization.

## FUNDAMENTALS OF PIPELINE SMS

*Continuous Improvement & Element Overview*

Introduces the Plan-Do-Check-Act model for continuous improvement and its relevance to Pipeline SMS Elements.

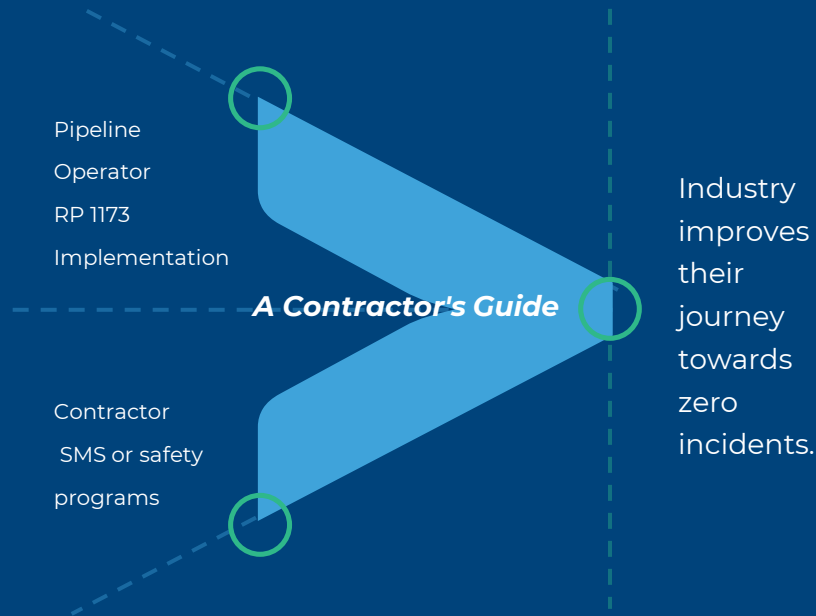
## PIPELINE SMS ELEMENTS

*Element by Element Review*

Provides example-based guidance for contractors that targets implementation support of specific RP 1173 requirements (56 of 234 total requirements).

# Look Ahead

Pipeline SMS encourages two way communication among pipeline operators and contractors. The Contractor's Guide is a tool to improve industry's journey towards zero incidents.



The Guide can be located free of charge on PipelineSMS.org.

Contractor support will remain a key focus area for 2023 by the Industry Team.

The Industry Team is continuing to explore additional contractor support tools that can provide high value to industry's Pipeline SMS journey towards zero incidents.





**"It is a journey,  
not a destination."**

# For More Information:

CONTACT US

## API

200 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-682-8000

---

[www.PipelineSMS.org](http://www.PipelineSMS.org)

[PipelineSMS@api.org](mailto:PipelineSMS@api.org)



Created in partnership with Lola Link Consulting, LLC.