

Universal Risk Scales – A Tool for Developing Risk Criteria by Consensus

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Abstract

In 1999, the Risk-Based Explosives Safety Criteria Team (RBESCT) developed the Universal Risk Scales (URS) to assist in the job of selecting appropriate criteria for defining “How safe is safe enough?” The URS summarizes legal precedents and standards that contain criteria for risk acceptance. These data are plotted as points alongside a logarithmic scale quantifying risk. Also plotted on the scale are numerous points representing actual risk statistics derived from historical accident data. The URS was the foundation for selection of the risk criteria currently used to perform risk-based explosives safety siting assessments. This paper provides an update to the previously published URS.



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