Platform Hazardous Area Zone Plots

The categorisation of hazardous areas in a facility is carried out by Technical Safety and is driven by the location of flanged piping joints, vessels, and vents. Inputs to this process include piping routing isometrics, general arrangements, and the hazardous area classification schedule.

The output of this process is a hatched area drawing showing the extent of each zone, which are defined as follows:

- Zone 0: Explosive atmosphere is present continuously or for long periods.
- Zone 1: Explosive atmosphere is likely to occasionally occur during normal operation.
- Zone 2: Explosive atmosphere is not likely to occur during normal operation, or only for a short period.
- Non-hazardous: Explosive atmosphere is not expected to be present.

An example of a reason for a zone 2 area would be the presence of a hydrocarbon line with flanges transiting through an otherwise non-hazardous area. If the same line was fully welded with no joints, it could then be classed as a non-hazardous area.

It can be seen from the type of hatching on the excerpt that the majority of the elevations shown is zone 2, with zone 1 spheres located around vents. It can also be seen that the access stair at the right-hand side is a non-hazardous area.

These hazardous area drawings will also be used by electrical and instruments to ensure that equipment for a particular area is correctly rated with respect to Zone requirements.

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