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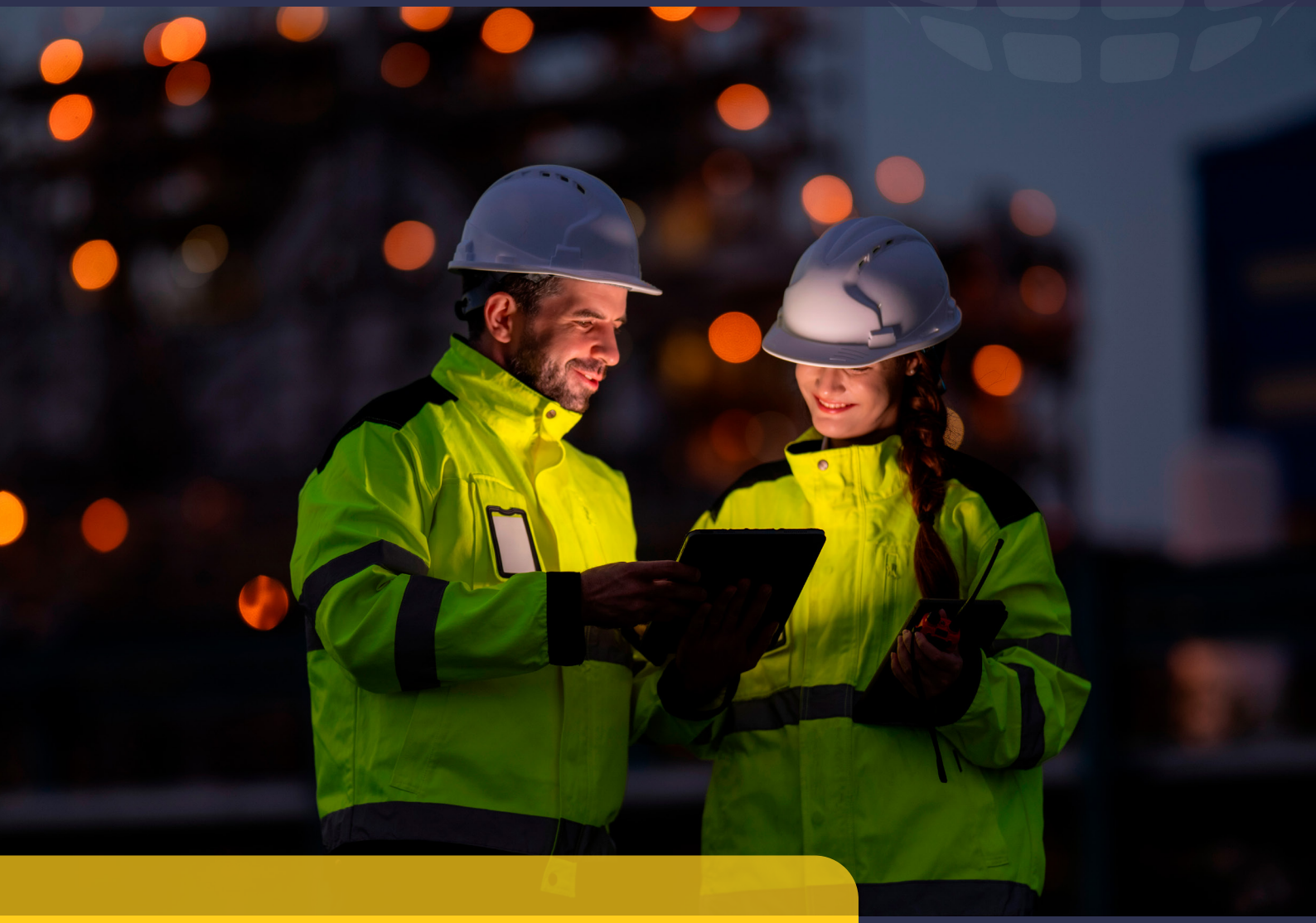

Human Factors Safety Critical Task Analysis (SCTA) Course

2027 dates

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Human Factors Safety Critical Task Analysis (SCTA) Distance Learning Course

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Overview

Safety Critical Task Analysis (SCTA) is a key methodology for improving human performance and reducing the risk of human error in safety, quality, and revenue critical tasks.

SCTA is recommended by the UK process industry regulator, to address the human factors aspects of major accident hazards under the COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) regulations. SCTA is sometimes known as Human Factors Critical Task Review (HFCTR) or SHERPA (Systematic Human Error Reduction and Process Analysis). It is also referred to as Human Reliability Analysis by the UK safety regulator and in the US nuclear power industry.

SCTA involves three key elements:

- **Task analysis** - which develops a graphical or text-based map of how a task is or should be performed.
- **Failure analysis** - which identifies potential human failures leading to unwanted or severe safety, quality, or other unwanted consequences.
- **Performance Influencing Factors (PIF) analysis** - which identifies and improves those aspects of the system which increase or decrease the likelihood of human failures.

These steps allow us to understand the differences between 'work-as-imagined' i.e. as usually documented in procedures, and 'work-as-done', i.e. how tasks are actually carried out at the operating level.

Our SCTA distance learning course provides the requisite knowledge to start implementing an SCTA programme at site, or to be an intelligent customer when procuring and reviewing SCTA work done by contractors.

The course is certified by the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) and all participants who complete the course will receive a certificate with this recognition.

A very effective and productive way to deliver training

"The Safety Critical Task Analysis course delivered remotely by HRA Ltd covered all the elements of SCTA that I wanted out of the course and also provided some very useful hints and tips. The use of video and webinars offers a very effective and productive way of delivering training on this topic and we will be looking to make greater use of this in the future."

Snr Staff HES Engineer, Valero Pembroke Refinery

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Learning outcomes

- Provides skills to facilitate SCTA projects, workshops & walkthroughs
- Understanding of regulatory background and requirements
- Identify different the four main types of human failures and what to do about them.
- Be able to apply task analysis best practices.
- Ability to understand and apply failure and PIF (Performance Influencing Factors) analysis
- Provide awareness of practical hints and tips for successful workshops and walkthroughs
- Capability to develop SCTA outputs, e.g. SCTA reports, procedures and competence standards
- Explore the ways in which these methods can achieve enhanced production and quality outcomes as well as safety objectives.

Essential knowledge to drive human reliability improvement

"This is a course all (Major Hazard Industries) in Singapore should consider as it helps participants acquire the needed knowledge, not only to drive human reliability improvement, but also to meet the Human Factors aspect of the local Safety (Regulations)."

Process Safety Manager

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What our Distance Learning Experience involves

The course is delivered remotely using a blend of online learning and access to digital resources.

There are over 20 hours of video talks, quizzes, activities, workshops, and webinars. Participants will engage with a detailed road tanker offloading case study as part of the course, which has a high degree of vulnerability to different types of human failure.

Participants have access to:

Webinars

6 x 90 min webinars with experienced trainers from HRA

Support

Tutor feedback on task, failure and PIF analysis

Resources

Access to the Human Reliability Academy SCTA course materials for two months

Software

Access to the SHERPA Software for two months. This is a useful teaching aid and a best practice tool for applying SCTA

A flexible course & practical examples – a good first rung on the SCTA ladder

"Flexible modular course focussed on HF & SCTA with use of practical examples to enable HSE professionals, operations and engineers get onto the first rung of the SCTA ladder to improve task-based procedures and competence assurance - a must for anyone working on a MAH site."

HSE Manager

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Course structure

Modules	Bonus material
1. Human Factors for Process Safety	☐ 'Fall from Grace' video
2. Overview of Safety Critical Task Analysis	☐ Safety critical task identification and prioritisation
3. Human Failure and non-compliance	☐ Advanced use of the SHERPA tool: rating PIFs, quantification, incident analysis
4. Foundations of task analysis	☐ Embedding Human Factors & SCTA in an organisation
5. Task analysis: industry case study workshop	
Failure and PIF analysis	
6. (a) foundation	
7. (b) demos	
8. (c) workshop	
9. Practical advice on running workshops & walkthroughs	
10. SCTA outputs and impact talks	

The self-directed course felt the best of both worlds – exceeded my expectations

"Due to the nature of my job it is hard to block out time to attend the 'live' scheduled sessions over a week or longer, so I opted for the self-directed course. It felt like I had the best of both worlds as I could do the course in my own time, get detailed individual feedback, and the pre-recorded class webinars made me feel part of the group discussion. I found it useful to book a coaching call part way through the course which is included in the course support – it was good to be able to talk about different approaches to failure and PIF analysis with the instructor.

I feel like the course has prepared me enough to facilitate my first SCTA session, and I can better see the potential value of this methodology for the organisation."

Regional Manager (responsible for fuel pipeline networks and a COMAH Terminal).

Self-directed **delegate**

Same Great Course - Flexible Options to Suit

We offer the same SCTA course content in four different formats to match your learning style and schedule: Intensive, Extended, Self-directed, and Face-to-Face.
All formats cover the same modules and provide CIEHF certification. The key differences are in timing and delivery:

- **Scheduled courses** (**Intensive** & **Extended**) feature live group webinars with experienced trainers
- **Self-directed** offers pre-recorded webinars with 1-to-1 feedback and community drop-in sessions
- **Face-to-Face** provides intensive 2-day training

N.B. For all webinar-based courses, there is roughly 3 hours of work between sessions, including talks, exercises and groupwork. This engaging and intensive work needs to be properly resourced and scheduled.

When	Type	Webinar dates	UK Webinar times	Time zone friendly?
Spring 2027	3 weeks **Extended**	2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18 March	09:00 - 10:30	Asia/Pacific afternoon e.g. Singapore 17:00 – 18:30
	2 months **Self-directed**	Rolling programme	Pre-recorded	Self-directed course
Late Spring	**Face to Face Course**	28-29 Apr	09:00-17:00	Manchester
Summer 2027	1 week **Intensive**	7, 12-16 July	15:00 - 16:30	N. America morning, e.g. US Eastern 10:00 – 11.30
	2 months **Self-directed**	Rolling programme	Pre-recorded	Self-directed course
Autumn 2027	6 weeks **Extended**	9, 16, 23, 30 Sept; 7, 14 Oct	09:00 - 10:30	Asia/Pacific afternoon e.g. Singapore 16:00 – 17:30
	2 months **Self-directed**	Rolling programme	Pre-recorded	Self-directed course
Winter 2027	1 week **Intensive**	1, 6-10 Dec	15:00 - 16:30	N. America morning, e.g. US Eastern 10:00 – 11.30
	2 months **Self-directed**	Rolling programme	Pre-recorded	Self-directed course

Online courses: Three schedules

Delegates have a choice of three schedules: **Intensive**, **Extended**, **Self-directed** . This is designed to give participants maximum choice and flexibility to suit different schedules and learning styles.

The scheduled courses have live group webinars, whereas the self-directed course has recorded webinars and more 1-to-1 feedback.

Intensive - 1 week (Hare)

The Intensive course schedule is done roughly over a week. It is for people who prefer a shorter timeframe and to work to a schedule, e.g., perhaps it is easier to take this time from work, or who want to do the course quickly.

There are 6 live webinars which means the work doesn't quite fit into a week. Generally, there is an introductory webinar the week before the main course, then a webinar every day on the second week. About 3 hours of work is to be completed between each webinar.

Extended – 3-6 weeks (Tortoise)

The Extended course schedule is done roughly over 3-5 weeks. It is for people who prefer a longer timeframe, and more flexibility in how they do the course, e.g. it could be conducted around existing work commitments.

There are about 1-2 webinars a week. About 3 hours of work is to be completed in between each webinar. This format allows more time to think about and reflect on the exercises in between the webinars.

Self-directed – Deligate's own schedule over 2 months (Offroad)

The Self-directed course format does not have the live group webinars and so can be done to the delegate's own schedule. There is a two-month window to do the course, which includes access to the SHERPA software platform to support the workshops and case studies. This provides enough flexibility to complete the course and stay focused and motivated.

Delegates have access to webinar recordings, additional 1-to-1 feedback and can book coaching calls to discuss their work. This is for people who find scheduled times difficult to organise with their work, want that extra flexibility, and who prefer to have more individual attention rather than work in groups.

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Face-to-Face Courses

Intensive 2-Day Training at Premium UK Venues

Our **Face-to-Face** courses deliver the same comprehensive SCTA content and CIEHF certification as our online programmes, but condensed into an intensive 2-day format with in-person instruction and networking.

Day 1 covers Introduction to Human Factors for Process Safety, the Psychology of Human Error, and Task Analysis. **Day 2** focuses on risk assessment, failure and PIF analysis, procedures and competence standards.

Training takes place in comfortable, centrally-located venues with excellent transport links. Throughout both days, you'll enjoy refreshments, snacks, and a hot lunch, plus the opportunity to network with fellow delegates and learn directly from our experienced facilitators.

Course fee: £1,750 + VAT (includes venue, catering, and all course materials).

Face-to-Face Course - Manchester

Holiday Inn, Manchester City Centre,
28-29 April 2027

Located in the heart of Manchester with excellent road and rail connections, the Holiday Inn Manchester City Centre offers modern, well-equipped training facilities. The venue is within walking distance of both major train stations and is surrounded by hotels, restaurants, and amenities - ideal for delegates travelling from across the UK.

The comfortable conference rooms provide the perfect environment for focused learning and group discussions.

We look forward to meeting you in person!

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Course fees

- £1,750 per delegate for the **Face-to-Face** course.
- £1,650 per delegate for the **Intensive** and **Extended** courses.
- £1,200 per delegate for the **Self-directed** course.
- Group bookings
  - Organisations booking 3 to 4 delegates in one booking can claim a 10% reduction.
  - Organisations booking 5 or more people should contact us about additional reductions and **private in-house courses** for 10 or more people.
- Existing SHERPA Software clients can receive an additional 10% reduction on request.
- VAT is applicable for organisations in the UK.

Exclusive Bonus – a Community of Practice for SCTA Course Alumni

The 'SCTA Craft Club' is a Community of Practice for our SCTA Course Alumni. One delegate described the SCTA course as a good first rung on the ladder for applying SCTA. We wanted to support people to climb the rest of the ladder even after the course. This is a way to keep the interesting and fruitful discussions we have during the course alive – with more resources, webinars, Q&A and support.

Drop-in sessions are organised for the enhanced self-directed SCTA course, so it is an online course with community elements.

The SCTA Craft Club is part of Human Reliability's Mighty Network:
https://hub.humanreliability.com/

> "Fantastic course with content suitable for everyone from a relative newcomer to the already experienced. The theoretical aspects are amply supported by practical applications for each, with sufficient quizzes and workshops to both practice and improve the candidates' knowledge and application."

Booking and Enquiries

Get Started with Our Simple Online Form

The quickest way to book your place or make an enquiry is through our online Booking and Enquiry form. This helps us gather the key information we need to get you set up quickly and ensure you're on the right course for your needs.

Complete our Booking & Enquiry Form

Prefer to Talk to Us Directly?

We're also happy to discuss the course by email, phone, or video call. Whether you have questions about which format suits you best, need a quote for group bookings, or want to discuss your organization's specific requirements, we're here to help.

info@humanreliability.com **+44 (0) 1257 463 121** **Book a call**

We can provide quotes for purchase orders or accept card payments directly. Group discounts are available for 3+ delegates.

> "The concept of SCTA was a new one to many of our sites. We requested support from HRA to begin SCTAs at our sites globally. Following the initial assessments, it was clear that we needed to build this capability in-house, so we brought together a global team for a 2-day training course. The course content was clear and well-structured, and the facilitators clearly explained all of the concepts and methodologies. This was supported with real examples, tailored to our operations, and applied using the SHERPA software. The course was thoroughly enjoyed by all attendees."

Want to See Inside the Course First?

Before you commit, explore our SCTA Course Information Pack - a comprehensive preview that includes a video overview, a walkthrough of the full course curriculum, and exclusive sneak peeks at actual course content.

This level of transparency is rare in professional training, but we're confident in the quality and depth of our programme. If you're serious about learning Human Factors Analysis (HFA), Human Reliability Analysis (HRA) and SCTA methodology, and want to start your Human Factors risk assessment journey with the right foundation, this preview will show you exactly what makes our course stand out.

Explore the SCTA Course Information Pack

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What your manager needs to know

Return on Investment

Implementing SCTA methodology directly impacts your bottom line by reducing operational risks and preventing costly incidents. Organizations typically see immediate benefits through improved procedural efficiency and reduced human error, while building valuable in-house capability that reduces reliance on external consultants.

Industry recognition

Our course carries certification from the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors (CIEHF) and was developed by leading human factors experts with decades of industry experience. It's trusted by major organizations across oil & gas, chemical, defence, and manufacturing sectors to meet regulatory compliance requirements for COMAH and process safety management.

Flexible learning to fit your business

Minimize disruption to operations by choosing between our intensive 1-week format or self-directed learning option. The online delivery means your team can learn and implement SCTA while maintaining their regular responsibilities, applying concepts directly to your workplace scenarios.

Comprehensive Support Package

Your team won't be learning in isolation. We provide access to our SHERPA software, ongoing mentoring through the SCTA Craft Club, and a complete set of implementation tools. This ensures your organization can begin applying SCTA principles immediately and effectively.

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Scan or Click
Level up your SCTA skills - visit our course webpage

Contact details

We look forward to hearing from you:

info@humanreliability.com

+44 (0) 1257 463 121

www.humanreliability.com

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