

Are You Ready to Externalize Safely?

Process and Plant Safety (PPS) Outsourcing Readiness — Executive Snapshot

Purpose

This snapshot helps senior leaders assess whether their organization is *structurally ready* to outsource Process & Plant Safety (PPS) activities **without increasing risk exposure**.

Execution can be outsourced. Accountability cannot.

Time required: 5 minutes

How to use: Answer honestly using **Yes / Partially / No**

1. Strategic Intent & Scope

- 1.** We have a clear rationale for outsourcing PPS activities (beyond cost or capacity).
- 2.** In-scope and out-of-scope PPS tasks for outsourcing/externalisation are explicitly defined and understood.
 - Yes Partially No

2. Accountability & Governance

- 1.** Legal and regulatory accountability for PPS outcomes is clearly retained internally
- 2.** Internal decision rights (approve / review / accept risk) are unambiguous.
 - Yes Partially No

3. Interfaces & Operating Model

- 1.** Interfaces between internal teams and external providers are clearly defined.
- 2.** Escalation paths exist for technical disagreement or uncertainty.
 - Yes Partially No

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4. Competence & Oversight

- 1. We retain sufficient internal PPS competence to challenge vendor outputs
- 2. Vendor deliverables are reviewed for technical quality, not just completeness.
 - Yes Partially No

5. Control, Assurance & Learning

- 1. PPS vendors are reviewed beyond commercial KPIs (quality, governance, risk).
- 2. Learnings from incidents, audits, or near-misses feed back into outsourcing design.
 - Yes Partially No

Quick Interpretation

- **Mostly “Yes”**
 - Structurally ready, with targeted governance refinement recommended
- **Several “Partially”**
 - Grey-zone risk likely; outsourcing may introduce unmanaged exposure
- **Any “No”**
 - High likelihood that outsourcing increases PPS risk

A strong vendor does not compensate for weak governance.

Next Step

This snapshot highlights **readiness**, not execution quality.

- **↓ Download the full PPS Outsourcing Readiness Checklist** (detailed assessment)
- **▶ Use the interactive readiness diagnostic** for deeper insights and prioritization