

Alarm Rationalization Service

Maximize alarm system effectiveness to enhance operator performance and process safety



Poor alarm management practices lead to an overwhelming number of largely irrelevant alarms, causing important alarms to be missed. Novaspect leverages the ISA 18.2-2016 Standard to design and implement both steady-state and dynamic alarm management through a comprehensive Alarm Rationalization process.

Overview

Alarm rationalization is a critical step in the ISA 18.2 Alarm Management Lifecycle, ensuring that every configured alarm meets the five essential criteria: Abnormal, Actionable, Consequence, Relevant, and Unique. Through proper alarm identification, justification, and design, alarm rationalization guarantees that annunciated alarms are both useful and meaningful. Combining steady-state and dynamic alarm rationalization further ensures operators receive the right alarms at the right time.

Approach

Novaspect's proven process for alarm rationalization is based on the ISA 18.2 standard, real-world experience, and successful implementations.

This process includes:

- **Design Preparation and Training**—Review Alarm Philosophy Document, plant data, and alarm database to design initial process systems and provide preparatory training for plant design team on alarm management principles and objectives.
- **Pre-Rationalization**—Rationalize the alarm database away from site using alarm management expertise, strong unit operations experience, and a thorough understanding of plant specific data.
- **Alarm Rationalization Review Session**—Review alarm rationalization with plant design team to finalize alarm design.
- **Implementation**—implement new alarm configuration on the alarm system with plant personnel actively involved in verification and approval of the design.

Benefits

- Aligns with ISA 18.2, which is recognized as “Good Engineering Practice” by OSHA and insurance providers
- Increased operator effectiveness by providing only meaningful and useful alarms
- Significantly less time and effort required by plant personnel with Pre-Rationalization
- Robust and relevant alarm design with Dynamic Alarm Management

Objective of Alarm Management – To Manage the quality of the alarms

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|---|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Abnormal | Should indicate abnormal conditions that lead to a consequence |
| 2 | Actionable | Must allow the operator enough time to take action to prevent the consequences from occurring. Must have a clear, defined response for the board operator. |
| 3 | Consequence | Must have a consequence that meets a predefined threshold |
| 4 | Relevant | Must be relevant to current process operation |
| 5 | Unique | Must be unique |

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