

ANTONIE VAN LOON OF INDUSTRIAL SERVICES SPECIALIST MOURIK CARIBBEAN:



# 'SAFETY AND QUALITY MUST BE SELF-IMPOSED'

GOVERNMENTS AND MARKETS MAY HAVE THEIR REQUIREMENTS, BUT AS BUSINESS UNIT MANAGER FOR A COMPANY SPECIALISED IN INDUSTRIAL SERVICES, ANTONIE VAN LOON BELIEVES QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS MUST BE SELF-IMPOSED. 'AUDITS WERE NEVER INTENDED TO KEEP QUALITY OR SAFETY UP TO PAR; AN EFFECTIVE QUALITY OR SAFETY SYSTEM ANCHORED IN THE VALUES AND AMBITIONS OF THE PEOPLE USING IT WILL KEEP ITSELF GOING.'

For 30 years, Mourik Caribbean has been a household name in the Caribbean and a regular contractor for the renowned Aruba oil refinery owned by Valero, whose tank facility it still services. Another regular customer is WEB, the island's water and energy company. Mourik Caribbean also provides catalyst handling, reactor services, waste management, industrial and chemical cleaning, hydro blasting and vacuum truck services in other countries in the region. Quality and safety are daily issues for Van Loon and his team. 'We don't do as much with our own hands as we used to because of automation, but we're still climbing in and out of tanks and reactors, operating in closed spaces and exposed to chemicals and heavy machinery almost every day. To us, safety and quality are top-of-mind.'

## WHAT REALLY MATTERS

The firm started working with the OHSAS 18001 standard for occupational health and safety management and quality management system ISO 9001 in 2006. Says Van Loon: 'It took a while to get everything in place, but what really matters is that as a com-

pany, we ourselves take safety and quality seriously – regardless of what the standards say. That means you want to keep up your performance on your own strength. The audits and controls help us to dot the i's, of course. But in essence, the quality and safety assurance have to be intrinsic to the company, or there's no point adopting a standard in the first place.' Comments Dirk Konijnenberg, lead auditor at Kiwa and frequent visitor to the company's Aruba base: 'Mourik Caribbean does not necessarily want to be the biggest in its field, but they do want to be the best. Their approach to quality and safety illustrate that ambition.'

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Antoni van Loon

## KIWA IN SURINAM AND THE CARIBBEAN

**Since 2006 (5 certificates), Kiwa has been issuing ISO/OHSAS, product and safety certificates in Surinam and the Caribbean (Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao and Saint Martin). As a result, our reputation has grown quickly and we're steadily expanding our activities (125 certificates) with a view to establishing an office in Surinam in due course. More information: [Reza.Abdoelrazak@kiwa.nl](mailto:Reza.Abdoelrazak@kiwa.nl)**