

Ethylene Polymerisation Reactor Technology Foundation Course

29 November – 3 December 2026
Johannesburg

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Ref: 1869_239572 **Date:** 29 November – 3 December 2026 **Location:** Johannesburg **Fees:** 6000 Euro

Overview

Ethylene Polymerisation Reactor Technology Foundation Course is a one-week programme for polyethylene process engineers, operators and production personnel who leave with an Ethylene Polymerisation Operations Workbook. Participants connect polymer chemistry, catalysts, comonomers, gas-phase, slurry, solution and tubular reactor routes with feed purification, heat removal, product recovery, quality, grade transitions and safe response. Activities use approved process information rather than live operating changes. Agile Leaders Training Center presents ethylene polymerisation through disciplined reactor decisions.

Who Should Attend

- Teams responsible for polyethylene reactor operation and production stability
- Engineers monitoring catalyst, feed and reaction-performance variables
- Personnel coordinating product quality and grade transitions
- Process safety functions supporting polymerisation hazards and safeguards
- Maintenance and technical teams planning reactor-system interventions

The course assumes participants can interpret basic process flow diagrams and operating trends, and it leaves out detailed reactor-design mathematics, catalyst formulation, live control changes and site-specific authorization.

Departments and Industries

The course supports departments and industries involved in polyethylene polymerisation, recovery, finishing and process assurance.

- Polyethylene and polyolefin production plants
- Petrochemical and chemical manufacturing
- Process engineering and production technology
- Operations, process safety and emergency response
- Quality, laboratory, maintenance and reliability functions

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

- Compare major ethylene polymerisation reactor routes
- Analyze catalyst, comonomer, hydrogen and feed-purity effects
- Use heat, mass and particle evidence to assess stability
- Prioritize product-quality and grade-transition controls
- Diagnose fouling, agglomeration and transfer problems
- Apply safe shutdown and emergency-response decisions

Course Agenda

Day 1: Polymer Chemistry and Polyethylene Products

- Ethylene Addition Polymerisation Reaction Map
- Polyethylene Density, Molecular Weight and Grade Families
- Catalyst, Cocatalyst and Comonomer Roles
- Hydrogen Influence on Molecular-Weight Control
- Ethylene Polymerisation Operations Workbook Structure

Day 2: Reactor Routes and Process Configuration

- Gas-Phase Fluidised-Bed Reactor Configuration
- Slurry Loop and Stirred-Tank Reactor Configuration
- Solution Polymerisation and Solvent-Recovery Interface
- High-Pressure Tubular Reactor Route for LDPE
- Reactor-Route Comparison and Product Capability

Day 3: Feed, Reaction and Product Recovery

- Ethylene, Comonomer and Catalyst Feed Purification
- Reaction Heat Removal and Temperature Control
- Gas Recycle, Slurry Circulation and Mixing
- Flash, Separation and Monomer-Recovery Sequence
- Powder Transfer, Purging and Finishing Interface

Day 4: Quality, Grade Transitions and Troubleshooting

- Melt Index, Density and Particle-Quality Indicators
- Operating-Variable Effects on Product Properties
- Grade-Transition Planning and Off-Specification Control
- Fouling, Sheeting, Swelling and Agglomeration Indicators
- Blockage, Transfer and Recycle-System Troubleshooting

Day 5: Safety and Operating Response Practice

- Exercise: Compare Gas-Phase, Slurry and Solution Routes
- Exercise: Review a Feed-Purity and Catalyst-Control Deviation
- Exercise: Diagnose Heat-Removal and Particle-Stability Evidence
- Exercise: Plan a Grade Transition and Off-Specification Response
- Capstone Exercise: Complete an Ethylene Polymerisation Operations Workbook

Practical Exercises

The course uses suggested activities based on approved process diagrams, trends and simulated operating records.

- Suggested activity: map feed, reactor, recovery and finishing interfaces
- Suggested activity: interpret temperature, pressure, composition and particle trends
- Suggested activity: identify static, hydrocarbon-release and powder-handling safeguards
- Suggested activity: prepare shutdown, isolation and emergency communication decisions

FAQs

Who is the course for and what does it assume?

It suits process engineers, reactor operators, production technologists, safety personnel and quality or maintenance coordinators. It assumes basic familiarity with process diagrams and operating data.

How does this differ from a general reactor-design course?

This course concentrates on ethylene polymerisation routes, catalyst and feed effects, particle behaviour, product quality and plant operation. A general reactor-design course develops broader kinetics, transport and sizing methods.

Which polyethylene reactor routes are covered?

The course compares gas-phase fluidised-bed, slurry loop or stirred-tank, solution and high-pressure tubular routes at a foundation level.

Why are feed purification and heat removal important?

Feed contaminants can reduce catalyst performance, while polymerisation releases heat that must be removed to maintain stable reaction and product conditions.

What practical output is completed?

Participants complete an Ethylene Polymerisation Operations Workbook covering reactor routes, feeds, heat removal, recovery, quality, grade transition, troubleshooting and response decisions.

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Conclusion

Participants leave with a repeatable method for connecting reactor configuration, feed quality, reaction conditions, particle behaviour and product results. The workbook makes operating evidence, deviations and response decisions visible while approved procedures, safeguards and authorized control remain in charge.