

GETTING STARTED WITH ISA-18.2 AND PROCESSVUE

Building a safer, smarter, and more manageable alarm system.

The Challenge: When Alarms Stop Helping

In today's complex industrial process environments, operators are bombarded by thousands of alarms every shift. Too many are **nuisance alarms**, **poorly prioritized**, or **repeated events** that distract rather than inform.

Common alarm management issues include:

- Alarm floods: bursts of dozens, or hundreds of alarms triggered in minutes.
- Standing alarms: conditions that remain active for days or weeks.
- Inconsistent priorities: every engineer sets alarms differently.
- No clear ownership: no one knows who last changed what or why.
- Reactive culture: performance problems are only addressed after incidents occur.

These challenges don't just create noise they increase risk, reduce productivity, and make compliance harder.

Enter ISA-18.2: A Proven Framework

The **ISA-18.2 standard** gives organizations a structured way to regain control. It defines a **10-stage lifecycle** for designing, implementing, operating, and maintaining alarm systems ensuring alarms are **relevant, actionable, and manageable**.

The goal: **The right alarm, at the right time, with the right response.**

Following ISA-18.2 helps teams move from firefighting alarms to **managing performance by design**. But while the standard defines what to do, it doesn't tell you how to do it efficiently at scale.

That's where **ProcessVue** comes in.

Enter ISA-18.2: A Proven Framework

ProcessVue is a complete alarm management software suite that helps you align with ISA-18.2 without the spreadsheets, manual processes, or fragmented tools that often hold companies back.

It brings the ISA-18.2 lifecycle to life through two core pillars:

ProcessVue Guardian – Control and Compliance

Guardian is your governance and configuration hub.

It helps you build structure around your alarm system by:

- Digitally applying your alarm philosophy using **impact and severity-based priority matrices**.
- Managing **rationalization** through guided workflows, templates, and bulk-edit tools.
- Storing all alarm configurations in a **central, searchable database**.
- Tracking configuration changes through **Change Reports** and **Management of Change workflows**.
- Providing configuration metrics such as total alarms and **priority distribution** for audit readiness.

Outcome: every alarm is justified, traceable, and consistent the foundational principles of ISA-18.2 compliance.

ProcessVue Analyser – Insight and Improvement

Analyser provides the **real-time performance visibility** you need to measure and sustain improvement:

Tracks all ISA-18.2 performance KPIs:

- Alarm rate per operator
- Flood frequency and duration
- Standing and stale alarms
- Operator response times

Displays dashboards and automated reports for daily and monthly reviews.
Highlights problem areas, enabling engineers to prioritize corrective actions.

Outcome: data-driven decisions that turn compliance into continuous improvement.

Starting Your Alarm Management Journey with ProcessVue

1

Assess Where You Are

Begin with an alarm performance baseline using ProcessVue Analyser. Identify alarm floods, standing alarms, and high-volume sources.

2

Define or Update Your Alarm Philosophy

Establish rules for priorities, response expectations, and KPIs. Guardian helps embed these standards digitally, so they're applied consistently.

3

Rationalize and Cleanse Your Alarm Database

Use Guardian's structured workflows and templates to review alarms, remove duplication, and document each decision.

4

Monitor and Maintain Performance

Once rationalised, Analyser provides continuous KPI tracking to ensure improvements hold — and highlight when intervention is needed.

5

Establish a Sustainable Improvement Cycle

Use Guardian's change control and audit features to maintain configuration integrity while Analyser drives long-term performance visibility.

The Payoff

Implementing ISA-18.2 with the support of ProcessVue delivers measurable results:

- **Fewer alarms per operator, fewer floods, and faster response times.**
- **Improved situational awareness** and reduced operator fatigue.
- **Defensible compliance** with ISA-18.2 and EEMUA 191.
- **Data you can trust** to guide continuous operational improvement.

Most importantly, you move from a reactive alarm culture to a proactive, intelligent one, a key step toward true **Alarm Intelligence**.



READY TO START YOUR ISA-18.2 JOURNEY?

Whether you're taking the first step toward ISA-18.2 or looking to strengthen an existing program, ProcessVue gives you the framework, tools, and insight to make it happen simply, securely, and sustainably.

Talk to an expert

Discover how to align your operations with ISA-18.2

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