

Law of Requisite Variety

- A situation can only be controlled if the variety of the controller matches the variety of the situation to be controlled.
- It is impossible to control for every variable so most variety is absorbed through relationships with other systems.



Law of Requisite Variety

- Only Variety can absorb Variety
- It means that in HSE or Risk Management, only enough variety in your system can absorb, or control HSE/ Risks originating from outside variety.
- By using feedback, this information is fed into the system to allow the system to adjust and learn constantly.
- It is impossible to control all HSE/Risks as systems fluctuate by information from constant changing variety (environment). (draw map)

Law of Requisite Variety

- Is the capacity of a system (society) to respond to risk
- A society generates tremendous variety and tries to control it in its own way through checklists, regulations and laws.
- Human variety, environmental variety, social variety, regulatory variety change all the time and cannot be controlled.
- Therefore a living system needs to maintain and develop an internal requisite variety to be able to absorb (counter balance) 'outside' variety. This means to have the people with the combined knowledge, experience, expertise and influence to do so, using all relevant information.

3

How would you behave alone on an island?



4