

Luz Hernandez Gamboa

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SUMMARY

Industrial Engineer with over 30 years of leadership experience in Venezuela's public and private petroleum sectors, including strategic joint ventures with global energy giants such as ConocoPhillips. Ph.D.-qualified with dual degrees in Engineering and Law, and a track record of managing multidisciplinary teams across international operations. As Safety and Health Manager at PDVSA's Jose Industrial Complex, oversaw performance across 7 major subsidiaries—including 4 upgraders and a marine terminal responsible for 70% of national exports—leading a workforce of 100+ and driving cross-cultural compliance. Directed incident prevention strategies impacting 30+ mixed companies nationwide, and consistently improved operational efficiency through data-driven planning, budgeting, and policy enforcement. Recognized for crisis leadership during high-risk events and awarded for contributions to corporate integration and performance optimization. Bilingual in Spanish and English, with strong technical, legal, and interpersonal capabilities in multicultural environments.

EXPERIENCE

Safety and Health Manager, Upgrading Division

2014 – 2018

PDVSA, Jose Industrial Complex

Anzoátegui, Venezuela

- Led Safety and Health performance for PDVSA's Upgrading Division, overseeing 4 major upgrader plants, 1 mixing facility, and the national marine terminal responsible for 70% of Venezuela's crude oil exports.
- Managed a multidisciplinary safety workforce of 100+ professionals across PetroMonagas, PetroPiar, PetroSanFelix, PetroCedeño, Petrolera Sinovensa, and shared infrastructure within the Jose Industrial Complex.
- Directed compliance initiatives and safety protocols in joint ventures with stakeholders from the U.S., Russia, China, France, and Norway, ensuring adherence to both national and international standards.
- Strengthened risk mitigation systems and emergency response planning, reducing operational hazards and enhancing readiness across critical oil infrastructure.
- Facilitated safety audits, intercompany coordination, and reporting processes that aligned local operations with PDVSA corporate policies and global oil industry best practices.

Planning and Control Manager, Industrial Safety

2008 – 2014

Petroleum Venezuelan Corporation (CVP), PDVSA Affiliate

Caracas, Venezuela

- Directed financial, administrative, and human resource planning for CVP's Industrial Safety Department, including budgeting, training programs, career development, and performance evaluation for all personnel.
- Oversaw annual departmental budgeting, cost control, and benefit approval processes, aligning resource planning with corporate safety objectives and operational constraints.
- Analyzed national incident data across 30+ mixed oil companies, developing company-wide safety improvement strategies and targeted training programs to address root causes and minimize recurrence.
- Coordinated safety and health oversight for mixed ventures across all geographic regions (western, eastern, Orinoco Belt, and offshore), ensuring regulatory compliance and consistent safety performance.
- Designed and implemented the department's annual work program, integrating data insights, stakeholder feedback, and corporate goals into a cohesive risk prevention framework.

Corporate Manager, Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS)

Sept. 2007 – June 2008

Petrozuata (ConocoPhillips-PDVSA Joint Venture)

Anzoátegui, Venezuela

- Led the Corporate Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS) function for a strategic joint venture between ConocoPhillips and PDVSA, ensuring full regulatory compliance and operational alignment with global best practices.
- Oversaw EHS performance across the company's full production chain, including oil extraction, solids handling, and upgrader operations.
- Managed a specialized EHS workforce and provided expert guidance to all operational departments on risk mitigation, regulatory obligations, and environmental stewardship.
- Strengthened company-wide EHS culture by coordinating with regulatory bodies and internal stakeholders to implement high-impact initiatives and continuous improvement processes.

Senior Corporate Coordinator, Environment, Health, and Safety (EHS)

Aug. 1998 – Sept. 2007

Petrozuata (ConocoPhillips-PDVSA Joint Venture)

Anzoátegui, Venezuela

- Directed EHS performance across Petrozuata's full operational chain—including production, oil movement, solids handling, and upgrader activities—with a team of 50+ safety professionals.
- Provided strategic and regulatory guidance to all departments, ensuring compliance with national laws and international best practices in industrial safety and environmental management.
- Maintained active engagement with local and national EHS regulatory agencies, strengthening institutional alignment and securing operational approvals.
- Recognized for outstanding performance during the critical 20" diluent pipeline event (2000), and for key contributions to Petrozuata's completion milestones and SHE procedural integration efforts.

Prevention Accident Supervisor

July 1989 – Aug. 1998

Puerto La Cruz Refinery, Petroleum of Venezuela (PDVSA)

Anzoátegui, Venezuela

- Led risk identification and control efforts across refinery and marine terminal operations, applying advanced methodologies such as PHA, HAZOP, FTA, and FMEA for process safety analysis.
- Conducted both qualitative and quantitative risk assessments using statistical tools and consequence modeling software, ensuring compliance with national and international safety regulations.
- Advised operational units on hazard mitigation strategies and regulatory requirements to maintain continuous safety and environmental performance.
- Promoted, implemented, and monitored risk control programs, significantly enhancing workplace safety culture and incident prevention across multiple projects.

Cost Control Supervisor, Major Projects

Aug. 1987 – July 1989

PDVSA (formerly Corpoven C.A.), GGIP Division

Caracas, Venezuela

- Prepared and updated comprehensive cost estimates for large-scale engineering projects, identifying variances and advising management on corrective financial actions.
- Managed annual disbursement timetables, ensuring budget alignment and timely resource allocation for ongoing project activities.
- Performed detailed monthly variance analysis between projected and actual expenditures, supporting informed decision-making and cost control.
- Developed monthly financial forecasts and disbursement reports, contributing to transparent budget execution and project financial health.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Industrial Engineering

3 Years

University of Cincinnati (U.S.A.)

- Average Grade: 3.85/4.0

Master of Science in Industrial Engineering

2 Years

University of Cincinnati (U.S.A.)

- Average Grade: 3.85/4.0

Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering

5 Years

University of Orient (Venezuela)

- Graduation Ranking: 1 out of 50 students

Law Degree

5 Years

Bolivarian University of Venezuela (Venezuela)

- Diploma obtained in 2015

Bachelor's Degree in Education with Specialization in Mathematics & Physics

5 Years

Andrés Bello Catholic University (Venezuela)

- Average Grade: 18/20

SKILLS

Technical Tools: Excel, PowerPoint, Word

Reporting & Communication: Technical report writing, public speaking, presentation development

Project Management: Budget preparation and control, personnel supervision, planning and task delegation

Interpersonal: Leadership in multicultural environments, strong communication skills, team integration, adaptability

Spoken Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent)